TRAVELS

IN THE

TWO SICILIES.

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IN THE

TWO VOLUMES.

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IN THE

TWO SICILIES,

BY

HENRY SWINBURNE, Esq.

IN

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

OF THE

FOURTH VOLUME.

SECTION XXXIX. *History of Girgenti. Description of the present City.—Musæum.* 1

SECT. XL. *Description of the ancient City.* 14

SECT. XLI. *Ditto.* - 21

SECT. XLII. *Journey to Syracuse.—Mines of Sulphur.—Palma.* - - - 31

SECT. XLIII. *Alicata.—Barilla.—Terranova. —Ruins.* - - - 39

SECT. XLIV. *Forest.—Honey.—Calatagerone. —Style of Living.* - - 50

SECT. XLV. *View of Etna.—History and Description of Lentini.—Felicity of the Plains.— Fine Prospect.—Column of Marcellus.—Ruins of Syracuse.* - - 63

SECT. XLVI. *Extent and Diviſion of ancient Syracuſe.—Ortygie.—The preſent City.—Temple.—Fountain of Arethuſa.* 73

SECT. XLVII. *Achradina.—Catacombs.* 91

SECT. XLVIII. *Tycha.—Old Walls and Gates.—Epipolæ.—Neapolis Theatre.—Ear of Dionyſius.* - - - - - 96

SECT. XLIX. *Productions.—Climate.—Port.—River Anapus.—Fountain of Cyane.* 106

SECT. L. *Journey to Meſſina.—Ruins of Agnuni.—Abundance of Game.—Immenſe Plains.—Giaretta.* - - - 114

SECT. LI. *Muſæum of Biſcari.—Veil of St. Agatha.—Hiſtory of Catania.—Muſæum of the Benedictines.* - - 123

SECT. LII. *Deſcription of Catania.—Villa of the Prince of Biſcari.* - 133

SECT. LIII. *Journey to Etna.—Eruptions.—Woods.—Effects of the Scanto.* 140

SECT. LIV. *Cheſtnut Tree of an Hundred Horſe.—Eruption of Hot Water.* 153

SECT. LV. *Site of Naxus.—Taormina.—Theatre.—Tombs.* - - 161

SECT.

SECT. LVI. *Deſcription of Meſſina.—Port.—Charybdis.—Letter of the Virgin Mary.—La Catholica.—Greek Protopapa.* 172

SECT. LVII. *Hiſtory of Meſſina.—Revolt.—Plague.* - - - 189

SECT. LVIII. *Trade to Sicily.* 197

SECT. LIX. *Voyage to Tropea.—Faro of Meſſina.—Rock of Scilla.—Earthquake of* 1783. 216

SECT. LX. *Fiſhery.—Stromboli.—Tropea.* 223

SECT. LXI. *Journey to Naples.—Monteleone.—Ruins of Hipponium.* - - 239

SECT. LXII. *Swine-herds.—Nicaſtro.—Deſtruction of St. Eufemia.* - 252

SECT. LXIII. *Mountains of La Sila.—Abbot Joachim.* - - - 268

SECT. LXIV. *Excurſion to Paula.—Hiſtory of St. Francis.—His Pidgeons.* - 280

SECT. LXV. *Hiſtory and Deſcription of Coſenza.—Tomb of Alaric.—Vale of the Crati.—Biſignano.—Hiſtory of its Princes.—Tarſia.—Monte Pollino.—Murano.* - 287

SECT. LXVI. *Campo Temeſe.—Woods.—Vale*

of Diano.—River loſes itſelf.—Appears again at La Pertoſa.—Arrival at Naples. 301

SECT. LXVII. *Journey to Rome.—Averſa.—Murder of Andrew of Hungary.—Old Capua.—Amphitheatre.—Hiſtory.—Modern Capua* 323

SECT. LXVIII. *Seſſa.—Plains of the Garigliano.—Ruins of Minturnæ.—Mola di Gaeta.—Gaeta.* - - - 335

SECT. LXIX. *Formian Villa of Cicero.—His Death and Character.—Tomb.—Fondi.—Old Walls.—Plundered by the Turks.* 347

SECT. LXX. *Journey to Avezzano.—Carſoli.—Entrance of Abruzzo.—Tagliocozzo.—Battle and defeat of Conradine.—St. Maria della Victoria.—Alba.—Avezzano.* - 360

SECT. LXXI. *Lake of Celano.—Ancient Marſi.—Emiſſarium made by Claudius.—Opening of the Sluices.—Account of Abruzzo.—Productions.—Character of the Natives.—Return to Rome.—Sora.—Cicero's Villa near Arpinum.—Iſola.* - - - 371

GIRGENTI.

SECTION XXXIX.

IT is four miles from the port to the city of Girgenti, which ſtands upon one of the higheſt hills on the coaſt; the houſes cover its ſummit and ſides compleatly, and ſeem like terraces, with the cathedral and caſtle above all. The road thither is good, though hilly, and the vale delightfully planted with olive-trees in corn-fields: among the diſtant groves towards the eaſt the ruins of Agrigentum riſe above the trees. The ſtone of which the lower ſtrata of theſe hills are compoſed is a concretion of marine exuvia of a reddiſh yellow tinge, ex-

actly similar to the colour of volcanic tufo when wet.

I was lodged at the convent of the Scuolepie, which being situated in one of the most elevated parts of Girgenti, afforded me from my windows a prospect of the whole country towards the sea; the ruins of the old city appear distinctly amidst green fields; the course of the torrents that flowed before its walls may be traced through all their meanders; the remains of ancient encampments on the heights, the port, and the coast for many leagues, all lie within the compass of one view. No pencil can do justice to the beauties of the intermediate vale, hemmed in by gentle eminences on three sides, and richly set with evergreens, and almond-trees powdered with blossoms.

The first person introduced to me was the Cicerone of the place, a poor schoolmaster; with moderate skill in drawing, great attention, and exactness, he has delineated all the ruins. I compared several of his draughts, and verified

his

his meaſurements, and had reaſon to be ſatisfied with his care and truth.

Before I proceed to an account of the preſent ſtate either of Old or New Girgenti, it will be proper to ſketch out a compendium of their origin and hiſtory. Ancient authors inform us that Dedalus, the moſt famous mechanician of fabulous antiquity, fled to this ſpot for protection againſt Minos, and built many wonderful edifices for Cocalus king of the iſland. Long after his flight the people of Gela ſent a colony hither, ſix hundred years before the birth of Chriſt; and from the name of a neighbouring ſtream called the new city Acragas, whence the Romans formed their word Agrigentum. Theſe Greeks converted the ancient abode of the Siculi into a citadel, to guard the magnificent city which they erected on the hillocks below.

An advantageous ſituation, a free government with all its happy effects, and a very active commercial ſpirit, exalted their commonwealth to a degree of riches and power unknown to

the other Greek ſettlements, Syracuſe alone excepted *. But if we may truſt chronologiſts with

* Nummi Agrigentinorum.

Ex Argento.

1. Pagurus ΑΚΡΑΓΑΝΤΟΣ—Aquila piſcem diſcerpens ΑΚΡΑΓΑΝ—

2. Pagurus—Aquila leporem diſcerpens.

3. Pagurus - Aquila ſuper colubrum ſtans.

4. In quadr. caput muliebre ΑΚΡΑ—Jupiter ſedens d. Aquil. s. bac. tenens.

6. Duæ Aquilæ leporem diſc. ΑΚΡΑΓΑΝΤΙ—Figura in quadrig. à ſupervolitante victoriâ coronat. ſubt. pagurus.

Ex Ære.

1. Aquila piſcem ten. ΑΚΡΑΓΑΝΤΙΝΩΝ alis expanſis—Pagurus Polypus et Concha.

2. Aquila piſc. ten. alis clauſſis ΑΚΡΑ—Pagurus

3. Aquila ſerpent. devor.—Pagurus. vermis.

4. Cap. Apollinis—duæ Aquilæ lepor. diſcerp.

5. Cap. imb. ferto redim.—Pagurus.

6. Aquila lepor. diſc.—Pagurus.

7. Aquila lacertam devor.—Pagurus. 2 glob. delphin.

8. Aquila avem devor.—Pagurus. 2 glob. 2 piſces.

9. Cap. imb. pileat.—Pagurus.

10. Cap.

with reſpect to the periods they have fixed for the particular events of thoſe remote ages, the

10. Cap. Apollin. AK—Aquila AKPAΓANTI.

11. Aquila. lep. dev.—3 glob.

12. Cap. Jovis—Aquila fulm. inſiſt. AKPAΓANTINON.

13. Cap. Cereris AK—Mulier ſtol. ſtans AKPAΓANTINΩN.

14. Cap. Apoll. AK—Aquila.

15. Cap. Cereris M—Vir nudus pat. ten. AKPAΓANTINΩN.

16. Cap. imb.—mulier ſtans s. haſt. tenens.

17. Cap. mulieb.—Tripus.

18. Cap. Palladis galeat. cum leone in galeâ—Victoria alat. et ſtolat. ſtans. d. ramum s. bacul. ten. pagurus NIKA.

19. Cap. Herculis barb. AKPAΓANTI—Aquila ſerpent. dev.

20. Cap. Jovis AKPAΓANTI—Aquila lep. dev. IΦ.

21. Cap. Cereris cum caracht. ignotis—Vir barb. ſtans togat.

22. Aquila AKPA—Pagurus AI.

23. Triquetra—In laurea AGRIGENT.

24. Aquila AKPAΓANTOΣ.

25. Cap. viril. diadem. imbarb. cornutum AKPAΓAΣ—Aquila columnæ inſid. capite conv. 6 glob. pagurus.

felicity of Agrigentum was but of ſhort duration, and tyranny ſoon deſtroyed its liberties.

Phalaris was the firſt that reduced it to ſlavery. His name is familiar to moſt readers on account of his cruelty, and the brazen bull in which he tortured his enemies. The letters ſuppoſed to be written by him were the ſubject of a long diſcuſſion among the learned ſome years ago; while one party maintained their authenticity, the other proved them to be ſpurious. Phalaris met with the common fate of tyrants, and after his death the Agrigentines enjoyed their liberty fifty years; at the expiration of which term Thero uſurped the ſovereign authority. The moderation, juſtice, and valour of this prince preſerved him from oppoſition while living, and have reſcued his memory from the obloquy of poſterity; he joined his ſon-in-law Gelo, king of Syracuſe, in a war againſt the Carthaginians; in the courſe of which, victory attended all his ſteps, and Sicily ſaw herſelf for a time delivered from her African oppreſſors.

oppreſſors. The memory of Thero's virtues could not preſerve the ſceptre in his family; very ſoon after his deceaſe, his ſon Thraſydeus was deſpoiled of the diadem, and Agrigentum reſtored to her old democratical government. Ducetius next diſturbed the general tranquillity: he was a chief of the mountaineers deſcendants of the Siculi, and was an overmatch for the Agrigentines while they were unſupported by alliances, but ſank under the weight of their union with the Syracuſans. Some trifling altercations diſſolved this union, and produced a war in which the Agrigentines were worſted, and compelled to ſubmit to humiliating terms of peace. Reſentment led them to embrace with joy the propoſals of the Athenians, then meditating an attack upon Syracuſe. Their new friends ſoon made them feel that the ſacrifice of liberty and fortune would be the price of their protection, and this conſideration brought them ſpeedily back to their old connections. But as if it had been decreed that all friendſhip

ſhould be fatal to their repoſe, the reconciliation and its effects drew upon them the anger of the Carthaginians: by this enemy their armies were routed, their city taken, and their race almoſt extirpated; ſcarcely a veſtige of magnificence was left, and Agrigentum lay fifty years buried under its own ruins, till Timoleon, after triumphing over the Carthaginians, and reſtoring liberty to Sicily, collected the deſcendants of the Agrigentines, and ſent them to re-eſtabliſh the dwellings of their forefathers. Their exertions were rewarded with aſtoniſhing ſucceſs; for Agrigentum roſe from its aſhes with ſuch a renewal of vigour, that in a very ſhort time we find it engaged in the bold ſcheme of ſeizing a lucky moment, when Agathocles and Carthage had reduced Syracuſe to the loweſt ebb, and arrogating to itſelf ſupremacy over all the Sicilian republicks. Xenodicus was appointed the leader of this arduous enterprize; and had his latter operations been as fortunate as his firſt campaign, Agrigentum would

would have acquired ſuch a preponderance of reputation and power, that the rival ſtates would not even have dared to attack it. But a few brilliant exploits were ſucceeded by a ſevere overthrow; the Agrigentines loſt courage, diſagreed in council, and humbly ſued for peace to Agathocles. This commonwealth afterwards took a ſtrong part with Pyrrhus, and when he left Sicily to the mercy of her enemies, threw itſelf into the arms of Carthage. During the firſt Punic war Agrigentum was the headquarters of the Carthaginians, and was beſieged by the Roman conſuls, who after eight months blockade, took it by ſtorm. It nevertheleſs changed maſters ſeveral times during the conteſt between thoſe rival ſtates, and in every inſtance ſuffered moſt cruel outrages. After this period very little mention of it occurs in hiſtory, nor do we know the preciſe time of the deſtruction of the old city, and the building of the new one.

My

My antiquary began his round with the cathedral, a clumſy building patched up by barbarous architects with various diſcordant parts; the Norman ſtyle is injudiciouſly blended with modern imitations of the Grecian orders. The roof is of wood and almoſt flat, interſected by two ſtone-arches; my conductor placed me at the bottom of the nave, and went himſelf along the cornice to a poſt behind the altar; his loweſt whiſper reached me, and was heard with the utmoſt diſtinctneſs, notwithſtanding the line of communication was broken by the iſles, and a multitude of projecting pieces of ornamental architecture. This church is enriched with no works of modern painters or ſculptors that claim any title to praiſe, but the baptiſmal font is made out of an ancient ſarcophagus faced with very beautiful baſſo relievos. The principal front exhibits ſeveral men with horſes and hounds preparing for the chace, and a little aged female holding the principal figure, as if ſhe wiſhed to keep him at home. The ſlab that forms

forms the back of the coffin is roughly chiſſeled, and repreſents the hunting of a wild boar, which keeps at bay a few dogs and five huntſmen. On one end of the monument a hero is drawn as thrown from a chariot, the horſes in great confuſion and diſmay rearing up, while a ſervant ſtruggles to hold them in. On the oppoſite extremity is a matron ſitting in a melancholy poſture, ſurrounded by her maids, who endeavour to ſoothe her grief by the ſound of various inſtruments. A little Cupid behind her chair has his bow bent, and ſeems to be drawing a ſhaft ſlily out of his quiver.

Antiquaries differ in their explanations of theſe ſculptures; but all agree in allowing them a conſiderable ſhare of elegance, ſpirit, and correctneſs of deſign.

Monſignor Luccheſi, the late Biſhop of this ſee, and brother to the Prince of Campofranco, lies buried under a maſs of marble as imperfect in taſte and drawing as it is in execution; the prelate deſerved a better monument, for he poſ-

poſſeſſed great virtues, and left behind him an excellent character both as a biſhop and as an encourager of ſcience; he added a ſpacious hall to his palace, and placed in it a large aſſortment of books for the uſe of the publick; he alſo bequeathed a cabinet of medals and antiquities as the beginning of a Muſeum, and an incitement to learning and good taſte. Time will ſhew whether his laudable endeavours, and the advantages he procured his flock in that line, have had all the effect he wiſhed in propagating knowledge in his dioceſe; it is the richeſt in Sicily, but has the character of being leſs enlightened and poliſhed than the reſt of the iſland.

Among the curioſities belonging to the cathedral is an Etruſcan vaſe of rare ſize and preſervation. There are alſo ſome golden pateras of extreme rarity, ſimilar to one purchaſed at Girgenti by Sir William Hamilton, and by him depoſited in the Britiſh Muſeum.

From

From the cathedral, a canon, to whom I had brought letters, carried me in his coach to ſee the town, and take the air in the only ſtreet where horſes can draw a carriage with any degree of eaſe or ſafety. This city, inhabited by fifteen thouſand perſons, has no remarkable buildings or works of art that deſerve mention; the only antiquities I ſaw were a Latin inſcription of the time of the Antonines, as is pretended, relative to ſome aſſociation between Agrigentum and Lilybæum; and a piece of ancient maſonry in the foundations of a church, which my guide called the remains of a temple of Jupiter.

SEC-

SECTION XL.

I DEVOTED the following day to a regular ſurvey of the ancient city of Agrigentum, the principal part of which lay in the vale; the preſent town of Girgenti occupies the mountain on which the citadel of Cocalus ſtood.

It was ſcarcely poſſible to be more judicious and fortunate than the Agrigentines were in the choice of a ſituation for a large city; they were here provided with every requiſite for defence, pleaſure, and comfort of life; a natural wall, formed by abrupt rocks, preſented a ſtrong barrier againſt aſſailants; pleaſant hills ſheltered them on three ſides without impeding the circulation of air; before them a broad plain watered by

by the Acragas, an agreeable ſtream from which the city took its name, gave admittance to the ſea-breeze, and to a noble proſpect of that awful element; the port or emporium lay in view at the mouth of the river, and probably the road acroſs the flat was lined with gay and populous ſuburbs.

The hoſpitality and parade for which the Agrigentines are celebrated in hiſtory were ſupported by a briſk and extenſive commerce, that alſo gave an air of life and opulence to all the environs. So ſtrong is this ſupport to a commonwealth, that Agrigentum was able to reſiſt many ſhocks of adverſity, and always riſe again with freſh ſplendour after the moſt outrageous ſtorms; it was, however, cruſhed by the general fall of Grecian liberty; the feeble remnants of its population, which had ſurvived ſo many calamities, were at length driven out of its walls by the Saracens, and obliged to lock themſelves up for ſafety among the bleak and inacceſſible rocks of the preſent city.

The

The day was as favourable for my purpoſe as could be wiſhed, clear and warm; every object glowed with the brightneſs of the ſunbeams, and all nature ſeemed to reſume new life on the approach of ſpring: the tints in the landſcape were ſtrong, and imbrowned with the ſhades of winter; but the quantity of evergreens, and the patches of young corn, gave ſufficient variety to the picture; every gratification I enjoyed in examining the noble veſtiges of old magnificence was enhanced by the ſweet temperature of the atmoſphere.

We began our rounds at the north-eaſt angle, with ſome foundations of large regular ſtones, upon which a church has been erected; a road appears hewn in the ſolid rock for the convenience of the votaries that viſited this temple in ancient days; it was then dedicated to Ceres and her daughter Proſerpine, the peculiar patroneſſes of Sicily. Biſhop Blaiſe has ſucceeded to their honors,

From

From hence we continued our walk to the ſouth-eaſt corner, where the ground, riſing gradually, ends in a bold eminence, which is crowned with majeſtic columns, the ruins of a temple ſaid to have been conſecrated to Juno: it was raiſed upon a lofty baſe of regular ſtone work, in the heart of which was contrived a gallery either for apartments or ſtore-houſes. On the weſt front only (for as the temple was placed on the brow of a hill, the elevation of the ground rendered it unneceſſary on the eaſtern aſpect) a grand flight of ſteps leads up to the pronaos or veſtibule. The fronts conſiſted of ſix fluted Doric columns, the flanks of eleven plain ones; of theſe few are now ſtanding, many having been thrown down by earthquakes within the memory of man; what remains is in a tottering condition, and threatens ſoon to be proſtrate with the reſt. Their ſituation on a gently ſwelling eminence, riſing out of a wood of fruit-trees, its ſides dotted with ſingle trees,

preſents a moſt delightful ſubject for the pencil of a landſcape-painter.

Here we altered our direction, and moved from this temple, which ſtood at the ſouth-eaſt angle of the city-walls, along the brow of the hill towards the weſt. We ſoon reached the building commonly called the temple of Concord *.

* The reaſon given for ſuppoſing it was ſacred to Concord is, that Fazzello, and ſubſequent writers, have aſcribed to this building the inſcription now fixed in a wall at Girgenti. It runs thus: "Concordiæ Agrigentinorum ſacrum "Reſpublica Lilybitanorum dedicantibus M. Atterio Can-"dido Procos. et L. Cornelio Marcello D. Pr. Pr." and, as D'Orville very juſtly concludes from many unanſwerable arguments, is ſuppoſititious. Upon this ſlight foundation, and an expreſſion in Strabo, who ſays, that all the public edifices of Agrigentum had been burnt or deſtroyed before the time of Auguſtus, Fazzello has formed his opinion that this temple was built after that period, and at the joint expence of the two cities mentioned in the inſcription. If it was, it muſt be deemed impoſſible to aſcertain the age of a building by the ſtyle of its architecture; for the ruins of Agrigentum ſeem to belong to an earlier period.

The

The ſtone of this and the other buildings is the ſame as that of the neighbouring mountains and cliffs, a conglutination of ſea-ſand and ſhells, full of perforations, of a hard and durable texture, and a deep reddiſh-brown colour. This Doric temple has all its columns, entablature, pediments, and walls entire; only part of the roof is wanting: it owes its preſervation to the piety of ſome Chriſtians, who have covered half the nave, and converted it into a church conſecrated under the invocation of Saint Gregory, biſhop of Girgenti. Six columns in front, and eleven on the ſides, without the angular ones, form the colonnade, in all thirty-four. The cella has a door at each end between two columns and two pilaſters, and in each ſide-wall ſix ſmall doors, and a ſtair-caſe that led up to the rooms in the roof. The pediments are much flatter than thoſe uſed by the moderns, not being elevated above twenty-two degrees. The entablement is very large in its proportions; the columns taper regularly without any ſwelling, from a

diameter of four feet three inches to one of three feet five inches *.

This majeſtic edifice ſtands in the moſt ſtriking point of view imaginable, on the brink of a precipice, which formed the defence of the city along the whole ſouthern expoſure; from every part of the country the temple of Concord appears the moſt conſpicuous figure of a beautiful picture.

* Meaſures.

	ft.	in.	lines.
Pediment, height of the die	9	9	6
Cornice - -	2	6	6
Entablement, height of cornice	2	6	6
Projection of ditto - -	3	0	0
Height of frize	3	5	0
Breadth of triglyph	1	5	0
Height of architrave	3	10	3
Thickneſs of abacus	0	10	3
Ditto of the ovolo	1	8	6
Ditto of the annulet	0	5	1

SEC-

H. Sw. del. J. Taylor sculp.

View of the ruins of Agrigentum from the Tomb of Thero.

_ _ *Temple of Hercules.*

_ _ _ _ *Temple of Concord.*

_ _ *Sepulchers cut in the rock detached by age or accident from the Mountain.*

_ _ _ _ _ *Temple of Juno.*

_ _ _ _ _ _ *Tomb of Thero.*

SECTION XLI.

FROM hence we proceeded in the ſame direction between rows of ſepulchres cut in the rock wherever it admitted of being excavated by the hand of man, or was ſo already by that of nature; ſome maſſes of it are hewn into the ſhape of coffins, others drilled full of ſmall ſquare holes employed in a different mode of interment, and ſerving as receptacles of urns. One ponderous piece of the rock lies in an extraordinary poſition: by the failure of its foundation, or the ſhock of an earthquake, it has been looſed from the general quarry, and rolled down the declivity, where it now remains ſupine with the cavities turned upwards.

Our next ſtation was at a ſingle column that marks the confuſed heap of moſs-grown ruins belonging to the temple of Hercules. It ſtood on a projecting rock above a chaſm in the ridge,

which was cut through for a paſſage to the emporium.

We followed this road over ſome hills to the building uſually called the tomb of Thero. It is ſurrounded by aged olive-trees, which caſt a wild irregular ſhade over the ruin. The ſituation is ſolitary, the rocks appear under the temple of Concord in the back ground, and the cluſters of beautiful trees form a variety of maſſes along the banks to which the magic touches of a Salvator could alone do juſtice.

This edifice rather inclines to the pyramidical ſhape, and conſiſts at preſent of a triple plinth and a baſe ſupporting a ſquare pedeſtal: upon this plain ſolid foundation is raiſed a ſecond order, having a window in each front, and two Ionic pilaſters at each angle; they are crowned with an entablature of the Doric order, of which the triglyphs and metopes remain, but the cornice is fallen; it is conſequently impoſſible to divine how the building was terminated at the ſummit. Notwithſtanding this confuſion of ornaments

and

and proportions, the monument has great elegance in its form and ſtyle. Its inſide is divided into a vault, a ground-room, and one in the Ionic ſtory, communicating with each other by means of a ſmall internal ſtair-caſe *.

Frem hence I wandered down into the plain to inſpect the fragments of what is called the temple of Eſculapius; part of two columns and two pilaſters with an intermediate wall ſupport the end of a farm houſe, and were, I ſuppoſe, the front of the cella.

From the plain I returned to Agrigentum by the ſame road, and purſuing the track of the walls towards the weſt, arrived at a ſpot which

* Meaſures of Thero's Tomb.

	ft.	in.
Diameter of the lower ſtory	13	0
Height of ditto - -	17	3
Diameter of the upper ſtory	9	1
Height of ditto	12	3
Diameter of columns at top	1	1
—— —— —— at bottom	1	6

is covered with the gigantic remains of the temple of Jupiter the Olympian, minutely deſcribed by Diodorus Siculus. It may literally be ſaid that it has not one ſtone left upon another, and it is barely poſſible, with the help of much conjecture, to diſcover the traces of its plan and dimenſions. Diodorus calls it the largeſt temple in the whole iſland, but adds that the calamities of war cauſed the work to be abandoned before the roof could be put on; and that the Agrigentines were ever after reduced to ſuch a ſtate of poverty and dependence, that they never had it in their power to finiſh this ſuperb monument of the taſte and opulence of their anceſtors. The length of this temple was three hundred and ſeventy Greek feet, its breadth ſixty, and its height two hundred and twenty, excluſive of the foundations or baſement-ſtory; the extent and ſolidity of its vaults and under-works were wonderful; its ſpacious porticos and exquiſite ſculpture were ſuited to the grandeur of the whole. It was not built in the uſual ſtyle of

of Sicilian temples with a cella of maſſive walls and a peryſtile, but was deſigned in a mixt taſte with half columns let into the walls on the outſide, the inſide exhibiting a plain ſurface.

This account of Diodorus cannot be perfectly aſcertained either as to length or breadth, and the height can only be gueſſed at by calculating the diameter of the ſemi-columns, and their proportions; we may thus form a plan by analogy and compariſon with other temples ſtill exiſting in the iſland entire in all or moſt of their parts; but as this edifice, erected in honour of the ſupreme deity of Paganiſm, differed eſſentially in its deſign from the reſt, the difficulties of ſpeaking with preciſion on the ſubject are doubled; I ſuppoſe that when the Sicilian author mentions height, he reckons from the pavement to the point of the pediment; this brings it pretty near his meaſurement, which otherwiſe ſeems abſurd or ill-copied.

Still I ſuſpect he does not allow ſufficient breadth. The half-columns meaſure ten feet in diameter, and if we follow the uſual proportion

of columns in Sicily, muſt have been only fifty feet high; they have ten ſharp flutings, each of which was wide enough to allow me to ſtand at my eaſe in them. Their mighty fragments lie ſcattered on the brow and ſide of a gentle declivity; theſe and the parts of the entablature and pediment have a deep grove cut at each end in the figure of a horſe-ſhoe, along which a rope was run in order to hoiſt the ſtone into its proper place.

The pompous deſcription left us of this fabrick, and the coloſſal dimenſions of its remains, impreſſed Baron Reideſel with ſuch enthuſiaſtic ideas, that in the warmth of his admiration and antiquarian zeal he treats all buildings of later date with moſt profound contempt; if we were to truſt to his deciſions on the point, we ſhould eſteem the church of Saint Peter at Rome as no better than a chapel compared with this temple, either in magnitude, taſte, or decoration; but upon cooler conſideration, and the compaſs in our hand, we ſhall diſcover that this writer,

who

who on other occaſions is a candid and diſpaſſionate obſerver, has ſuffered himſelf in the preſent inſtance to be led away by his veneration for the ancients, and that the cathedral of Rome exceeds the Agrigentine temple more than doubly in every dimenſion *; the latter lies in ſo ruinous and deſolate a condition, that no compariſon can be made reſpecting the ornamental parts, or the great architectural lines that conſtitute true grandeur.

The next ruin belongs to the temple of Caſtor and Pollux. Vegetation has covered the lower parts of the building, and only a few fragments of columns appear between the vines. This was the point of the hill where the wall

* According to the meaſures given by Mr. Lalande of the Academy of Sciences, Saint Peter's church on the outſide in length, including the portico, meaſures 704 Engliſh feet—its height from the pavement to the top of the croſs 435—Breadth 493. It is therefore with the cupola 215 feet higher than the Greek temple, 334 longer, and 433 wider; an immenſe difference.

ſtop-

ſtopped on the brink of a large fiſhpond ſpoken of by Diodorus; it was cut in the ſolid rock thirty feet deep, and water was conveyed to it from the hills; in it was bred a great quantity of fiſh for the uſe of public entertainments; ſwans and various other kinds of wild fowl ſwam along its ſurface, for the amuſement of the citizens, and the depth of water prevented an enemy from ſurpriſing the town on that ſide. It is now dry, and uſed as a garden.

On the oppoſite bank are two tapering columns without their capitals, moſt happily placed in a tuft of carob-trees. Monte Toro, where Hanno encamped with the Carthaginian army, before the Roman conſuls drew him into an engagement that ruined his defenſive plan, is a noble back-ground to this pictureſque groupe of objects.

The warmth of the weather, and the fatigue I had undergone in clambering over ſo many heaps of ruins, cauſed me to obey the ſummons to dinner with exquiſite pleaſure. The canon,

to

to whoſe care I was recommended, had prepared a moſt excellent repaſt at the convent of San Nicolo, belonging to the Franciſcan order.

This monaſtery ſtands on a little eminence in the centre of the old city, admirably ſituated. The range of hills towards the ſouth-eaſt ſinks gradually, ſo as to admit a noble reach of ſea and of plain, terminated on each ſide by thick groves of fruit-trees; through them I here and there diſcovered the winding courſe, and ſometimes the waters, of the river. Above appear the remains of ancient grandeur, wonderfully contraſted with the humble ſtraw-cottages built at their feet. As a companion to this landſcape, the preſent city riſes boldly on a pinnacle, backed by lofty mountains in different degrees of tint and ſhade. In the orchard of this convent is a ſquare building with pilaſters, which is ſuppoſed to have been part of the palace of the Roman prætor. The whole ſpace comprehended within the walls of the ancient city abounds with traces of antiquity, foundations, brick-arches, and lit-

tle

tle channels for the conveyance of water; but in no part are any ruins that can be preſumed to have belonged to places of public entertainment. This is the more extraordinary, as the Agrigentines were a ſenſual people, fond of ſhews and dramatic performances, and the Romans never dwelt in any place long without introducing their ſavage games. Theatres and amphitheatres ſeem better calculated than moſt buildings to reſiſt the outrages of Time, and it is ſurpriſing that not even the veſtiges of their form ſhould remain on the ground.

FROM

GIRGENTI

TO

SYRACUSE.

SECTION XLII.

I SPENT the following days in repeated viſits to the ruins, while the fineneſs of the weather invited me abroad; at home I found my hoſts civil without officiouſneſs, and myſelf at full liberty to enjoy ſolitude, or join in company, as it ſuited my inclinations: the converſation of the prieſts was eaſy and ſprightly, and full of information on many ſubjects.

On the 6th inſtant a great change took place in the weather; wind, lightning, and rain aſſailed

us, and my room, which formed the angle of an elevated manſion, experienced all the fury of the ſtorm. It was a moſt bluſtering night; not a guſt of the tempeſt but what was heard by me, nor did the howling of the winds and beating of the rain permit me to cloſe my eyes: notwithſtanding the ſolidity of the walls, I thought it almoſt impoſſible that the houſe could withſtand the violence of ſuch a hurricane. At ſun-riſe the ſtorm ſuddenly ceaſed, and the weather brightening up, I prepared for my journey towards the eaſtern parts of the iſland.

Accordingly, at noon I ſet out; as I paſſed through the city-gate, the muſicians belonging to the corporation ſaluted me with a long farewell on the French horn, which they blew to the very height of its notes with more attention to noiſe than melody. The Sicilians are paſſionately fond of loud wind and inſtrumental muſick, and upon great holidays will collect before a church-door forty or fifty drums all beating together; for the greater the noiſe, the more honour for the ſaint.

Not-

Notwithſtanding their good wiſhes, our progreſs was ſoon ſtopped; for the very firſt brook we came to was full to the brim, and not to be forded without imminent danger; we therefore prudently returned, and waited till the waters had run off.

Next day I reſumed my journey; we paſſed the rivulet before ſo formidable, now dwindled to a trifling ſtream, and alſo the larger river of Naro, after which we had to encounter the worſt roads in Sicily: the clay was ſo tenacious, and the ſolid bottom lay ſo deep, that our horſes and mules were ſcarcely able to draw their legs out of the mud. The hills on each ſide abound in ſulphur, which is dug out by means of grooves driven into the heart of them; the mineral is brought up in ſmall green lumps, and laid in large troughs, lined with plaſter. When the fire has heated them to the proper degree, the brimſtone exudes through holes in the bottom into wooden bowls placed under them. As it was not the ſeaſon for working, I had not an

opportunity of ſeeing the proceſs. After labouring nine miles in theſe almoſt bottomleſs roads, we unexpectedly came to a ſandy ſoil, fine orange-gardens, and rocky defiles that brought us to * Palma, a ſmall town belonging to the prince of Lampeduſa, ſituated in a moſt agreeable valley not far from the ſea.

I ſlept in the manor houſe, which is ſpacious and handſome, though unfiniſhed, and almoſt unfurniſhed. Nobody came near me, or offered the leaſt ſervice, except an old woman who lives in the offices. I was not very ſorry to be thus neglected by the ſteward, to whom I had ſent my letter, for the ſervants procured a good

* Palma was founded in 1637, by Charles Tomaſi, * who firſt was allowed the title of duke of this place. It had been part of the eſtate of Andrew di Chiaramonte, or Clermont, forfeited for rebellion againſt king Martin. Inhabitants 5535. Lexic. fig. Topogr.* It went afterwards to his brother, prince of Lampeduſa, in whoſe poſterity it ſtill remains.

ſupply

ſupply of excellent proviſions without his aſſiſtance, and both they and a French merchant that joined our company gave a moſt unfavourable account of the Palmeſe; they aſſured me that a native of Palma might be found in every jail in Sicily, for in atrocious villainy and badneſs of character they were eminently remarkable above all the inhabitants of the iſland. The old woman acknowledged that part of the accuſation was true, and that the brother of the governatore was juſt releaſed from confinement for want of evidence of his having murdered his ſiſter-in-law. Theſe accounts took away all deſire of making any acquaintances here, and reconciled me to my ſolitude. The houſe ſtands on a rock that towers above an extenſive plain, divided into corn-fields by rows of almond-trees in full bloſſom; ſome ſmaller incloſures ſurround clumps of evergreen fruit trees, and vines that run from the trees form arbours which in ſummer muſt be delicious ſhady retreats; but ſhade and ſhelter are amply ſupplied at all

ſeaſons by the locuſt-trees ſcattered over the vale; the mother trunk is encircled by layers that ſtrike root and ſhoot up to an equal height, thus from a ſingle original plant ſpreading a grove over half an acre. In front of the windows riſes a gentle knoll covered with a knot of tall palm-trees that hang their beautiful branches over a farm houſe; the ſea appears between their ſtems. This rich vale is cloſed on the weſt ſide by a wood of fruit trees that cover the hills, at the foot of which a limpid ſtream winds its way to the ſea—Behind all riſes a mountain, planted to the ſummit with olive trees. The view to the eaſt is confined by a high country cultivated to the very top.

In my whole tour I never met with a ſpot that poſſeſſed ſo many points of rural elegance as this vale of Palma; it ſeemed to me the image of what the whole ſouthern coaſt of Sicily was, while its inhabitants had nothing to fear from their African neighbours; while they peaceably cultivated their fertile lands, and ran

no

no riſk of a barbarous invader's reaping the fruit of their toil, and carrying off their families to ſlavery in foreign climes.

The face of the country along the coaſt has undoubtedly undergone great alterations ſince the ſtates of Barbary began their depredations; the terror they inſpire has driven the natives into towns, or farther back from the ſea, and, perhaps, induces them to keep the country clear of wood, that the approach of an enemy may be more eaſily diſcerned and guarded againſt.

A ſmall caricatore is now the ſource of ſome proſperity to the Palmeſe, enabling them to diſpoſe of the excellent products of their territory. The wine of Palma is highly prized; indeed the whole coaſt affords that article in great perfection. I taſted various ſorts of white wine, ſome low in colour, and others of a rich amber glow, reſembling ſherry in look and taſte. The macaroni of this diſtrict is very fine, the bread extremely white and good, and

wherever I came, freſh eggs, pork, and fowls were to be had in great abundance.

From Palma I travelled ſome miles in a pleaſant plain, part of which is planted with vines, the reſt ſown with corn and incloſed with rows of almond-trees. I then paſſed over a high ledge of rocks, from whence I had a view of the ſpacious plains which Fazzello calls the Campi Geloi, ſuppoſed to have been ſeen by Æneas as he coaſted along *. A long inſulated mountain divides this level track of land from the ſea-ſhore. My guide, who knew the low grounds to be impaſſable at this ſeaſon of the year, conducted us near the beach, and by winding over the hills picked out a road to Alicata, which is twelve miles from the laſt halt; whenever neceſſity drove us down into the plain (for we could not always make good a paſſage round the rocks), our progreſs was

* Ad paret Camarina procul campique Geloi
Immaniſque Gela fluvii cognomine dicta. VIRG. Æn.

ſlow and fatiguing both to man and beaſt, for at every ſtep we were mired and almoſt riveted in the dirt.

SECTION XLIII.

ALICATA is a ſmall town, built partly upon a ſlope and partly on the beach at the end of a long chain of hills. It is a place of little ſtrength, for the caſtle of St. Angelo on the brow of the hill is ruinous, the town-walls are much decayed, and the fortreſs on the peninſula is in want of great repairs to render it ſtrong. It forms two ſmall bays for the barges that carry out the corn to ſhips lying in the offing. Alicata has great connections with Malta in the corn trade, and Malteſe ſperonaras *

* A kind of long boat that goes both with oars and ſails.

are commonly to be hired here. My intention was to have embarked at Alicata, and to have viſited that iſland; but the winds had long blown from the wrong point, and ſeemed fixed for a length of time in the ſame quarter. This difficulty, and the great agitation of the ſea, obliged me to give up all thoughts of the voyage. I alighted at the houſe of a clergyman. The town contains ten thouſand inhabitants. The patron of Alicata is Saint Angelo, a Carmelite friar murdered by the Moors in the thirteenth century; his body was expoſed to the veneration of the publick while I was there, in commemoration of his having preſerved the town from the havock occaſioned in other parts of the iſland by the earthquake of 1693. The populace of this place carry their reſpect for the ſacerdotal character to a great height; for as we walked through the ſtreets, the old women and children caſt themſelves on their knees before the clergyman my companion, touching his garments with a finger, and then kiſſing their hand

hand with great veneration; ſome, more inconveniently ſituated than the reſt, contented themſelves with touching my cloaths, thinking, no doubt, that a bleſſing was like the electric fluid, and could be communicated by means of conductors.

Alicata poſſeſſes ſome curious Greek inſcriptions relative to the ancient city of Gela; the moſt remarkable is a pſephiſma, or decree of the ſenate, for crowning Heraclides director of the public academy.

January 10. I left the Val di Mazzara at the ferry of the Fiume Salſo, and entered the Val di Noto. This river was the Himera of the ancients; it riſes in the heart of Sicily, near the ſource of another river formerly known by the ſame name of Himera, which diſcharges itſelf into the gulf of Termini. The preſent denomination is derived from the brackiſh taſte of its waters, which are deep in winter, but extremely ſhallow in ſummer.

On the oppoſite bank I enjoyed a pleaſant view of Alicata, ſtretching down the hill in an elegant

elegant ſweep. Its caſtles terminate the line of houſes in a bold manner, and preſent a miniature copy of the grand picture of Naples, when ſeen from the ſhore of Portici.

We kept near the ſea for eighteen miles, following the ſinuoſities of the coaſt, and as much as poſſible riding upon the ſands; they abound in ſhells, ſome of which would be valuable to a collector of natural curioſities; the broken cliffs that extend to the verge of the ſea are compoſed of greeniſh marle, full of ſulphur; ſome of them are ſolid rocks of gypſum. A great deal of kali, or ſaltwort, grows on theſe marley grounds, and a conſiderable quantity of barilla is burnt in the neighbourhood. The diſcovery of the uſes of this plant appears to be a preſent of the Saracens to the Europeans; for I have not been able to find any mention of it before the Mahometan æra. The ancients, as far as I have read, are ſilent on that head. Pliny enters deeply into the nature of the various kinds of nitre, explains all the ingredients employed

employed in making glaſs, but in the number never hints at any mixture of vegetable aſhes being uſed. He informs us in his 31ſt book, that nitre was naturally formed by evaporation in ſeveral lakes, without any art, and that in other places it was made in the ſame manner as ſalt, in beds, and by regulated quantities of nitrous water let in to evaporate; after which it was laid in heaps, and there hardened to the conſiſtence of a ſtone. He adds, that a ſhip laden with nitre having anchored off the mouth of a muddy river in Syria, called Belus, the ſailors landed to dreſs their dinner on ſhore, but for want of ſtones to ſet their pot upon, fetched ſome lumps of their cargo from the ſhip for that purpoſe. As the fire increaſed it melted the ſalt jointly with the ſands of the beach, and ſoon produced a new liquor, which was glaſs.

Before I ventured to advance this opinion, I conſulted ſuch modern writers as have written profeſſedly on the ſubject. In the Encyclopedie I found,

I found, under the heads *Soude* and *Verre*, a contrary aſſertion, grounded upon a miſ-interpretation of Pliny's words *. It is there ſaid that, according to a ſtory in Pliny, glaſs was diſcovered by ſome merchants, who being *caſt away* on the ſands, near the mouth of the river Belus, happened to dreſs their victuals *with kali, the aſhes of which* united in fuſion with the ſand. No mention whatever is made by the Latin naturaliſt of any plant or aſhes, but only of nitre collected from water, and hardened into lumps. The compilers of that Dictionary are often guilty of ſimilar inaccuracies, and it had been more conducive to the public utility, if they had devoted ſome of the hours ſpent in metaphyſical diſſertations to the reviſal

* The text runs thus :—" Fama eſt appulſa nave mercatorum nitri, cum ſparſi per litus epulas pararent, nec eſſet cortinis attollendis lapidum occaſio, glebas nitri è nave ſubdidiſſe. Quibus accenſis permiſta arena littoris tranſluentes novi liquoris fluxiſſe rivos et hanc fuiſſe originem vitri."

and perfection of the eſſential parts of their book. A ſlight criticiſm upon this Dictionary will, I truſt, be pardoned in a work that deſcribes Palermo as a capital ſtill exiſting in a populous flouriſhing condition, while the Encyclopediſtes call it, "an ancient city deſtroyed, "that was formerly ſituated on the northern "coaſt of Sicily, and vied with Meſſina for the "title of metropolis."

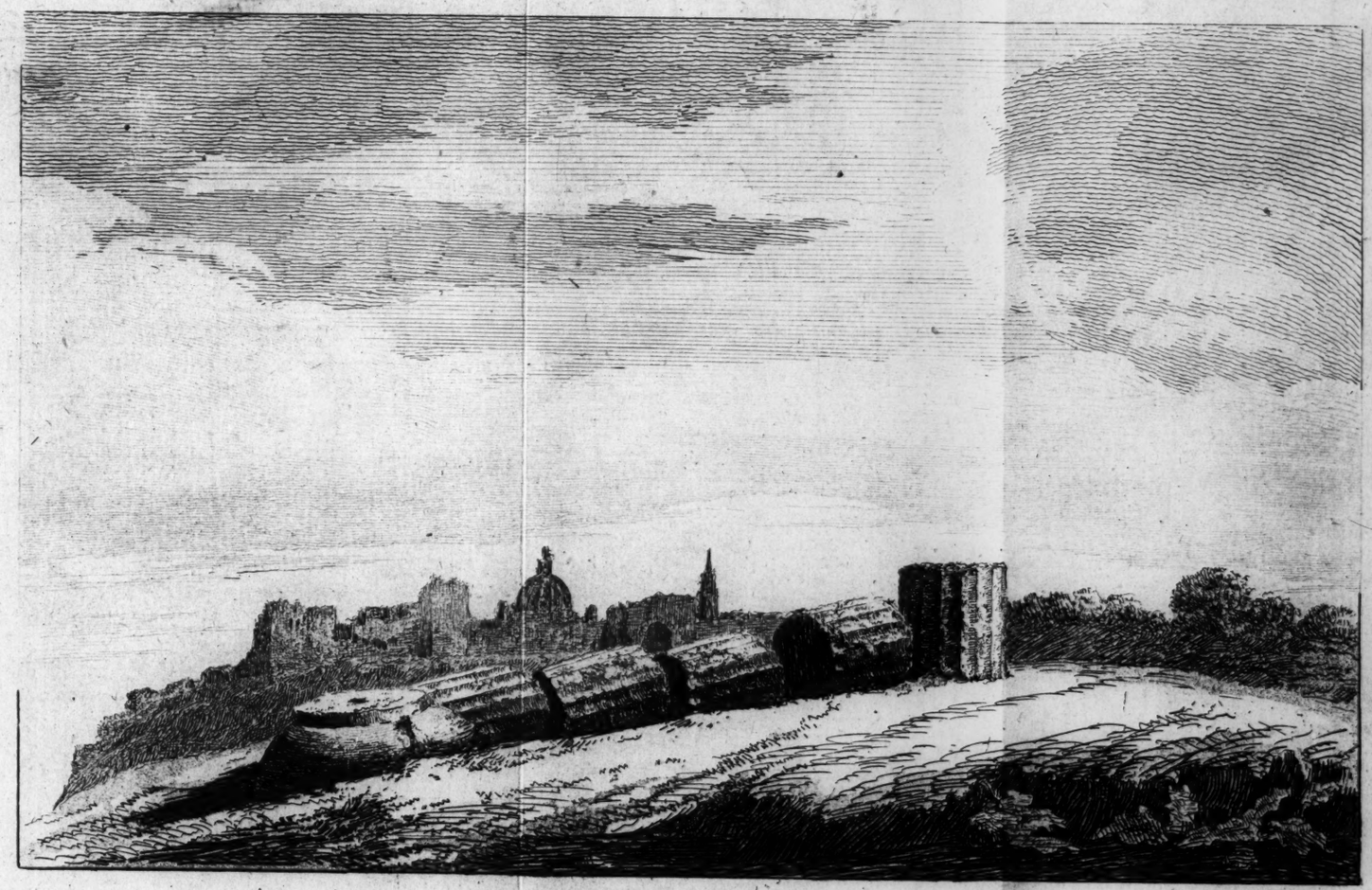
No appearance of ruined edifices occurred during my ride to Terranova, a large burgh belonging to the duke of Monteleone. It is chearfully ſituated on a bank near the ſea, and has a caricatore which exports a conſiderable quantity of corn. The environs abound with figs and grapes, but produce no olives, which renders oil a ſcarce and dear commodity. The water here is bad, and not always in ſufficient quantity for the demand of the inhabitants. I am informed that Terranova has the unpleaſant reputation of being more infected with the itch than any other town in Sicily, which proceeds from

from the brackiſh water and fiery wine they drink, the ſalt pork and tunny they live upon, and the inactive life they lead. I leave it to the natives to ſettle the juſtice of this accuſation; but muſt obſerve, that theſe cutaneous diſorders are far from uncommon in the other parts of the iſland, and that it bears the ſofter appellation of *ſſocaccia*, a heat. I apprehend that dirtineſs is a primary cauſe of the frequency of theſe ſalt humours.

Terranova has ſeveral remains of antiquity; in the town are ſome foundations and mutilated fragments of a great temple; at a ſmall diſtance from the eaſt gate, on a bare hill of ſand *, a column of the Doric order lies proſtrate.

There

* Its component parts are ſix in number, ſeparate but unbroken, the fall having only disjoined them, not altered their reſpective poſitions. No cement had been uſed, only a bolt. One piece formed the capital five feet long; the others compoſed the ſhaft, are fluted, and four feet



COLUMN AT TERRA NOVA.

There have been great debates among geographers concerning the ſituation of Gela, whether it ſtood at Alicata, or at Terranova. In both places are antique ruins, and behind both an immenſe plain, to which the name of Geloan-fields has been applied by antiquaries. I think with Cluverius, that Terranova has the clearer title to repreſent the ancient city. The account of Agathocles's defeat by the Carthaginians ſeems to me a ſtrong proof in its favour: they were encamped on the eminences to the weſt of the river Himera, and the Sicilian tyrant was under a neceſſity of croſſing it before he could make his attack upon them. The Sicilians, being repulſed and routed, fled acroſs the plains, where the Numidian cavalry purſued them with great ſlaughter, and along the banks of the river; as the weather was inſufferably hot, the ſoldiers exhauſted with fatigue and

feet long each; the diameter at the bottom is five feet, at the top of the ſhaft, four.

parched

parched up with thirſt, ſwallowed large draughts of its water, which poiſoned many that the ſword had ſpared. Agathocles collected his ſcattered forces, and retreated to Gela. From this account, the Himera being undoubtedly the ſame as the Fiume ſalſo, it is evident that Gela could not be where Alicata now ſtands, but ſomewhere eaſt of the river. But ſuch amazing changes have happened along this coaſt ſince the days of Grecian ſplendour, that perhaps the towns, whoſe ruins we are ſearching for, may now be buried deep under the waves, or the ſands which have been accumulated at the mouths of the rivers.

Gela was a Rhodian colony, and the parent of other colonies eſtabliſhed along the coaſt; its ſtory reſembles theirs, being compoſed of great viciſſitudes of liberty, proſperity, tyranny, and deſolation. The moſt remarkable æra of its annals was the reign of Gelo: it ſeems to have loſt all conſequence long before the Romans

ſubdued

ſubdued Sicily; and, in the time of Auguſtus, Strabo ranks it among the uninhabited places of the iſland *.

* Nummi Gelenſium.

Ex Argento.

1. Dimidium bovis cum capite humano et cornu ΓΕΛΑ—Equus corona.
2. Idem——Eques nudus d. baculum tenens.
3. Idem——Vir in bigâ coronatus.
4. Cap. imb. diadem.—Minotaurus gradiens ΓΕ.

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. imb. capillis horridis ΓΕΛΑΣ—Bos et ramus.
2. Cap. Apoll.—Minotaurus.
3. Cap. Hercul.—Minotaurus.
4. Dimid. Minotauri.—Biga victoria ſupervol. et coronam impon.
5. Cap. cornut. diadem.—Taurus. 3 glob.
6. Cap. Apoll.—Dimid. Minotauri—delphin K.
7. Cap. imb. diad.—Minotaurus K. 3 globuli.

SECTION XLIV.

AT Terranova I quitted the ſouthern coaſt, and directed my courſe north-eaſt.

The low road was impracticable on account of the late rains, and we were obliged to take a round-about way over the high country, which is almoſt an entire ſandy foreſt of cork-trees. The proſpects on every ſide were grand. Towards the weſt lay an immenſe plain, bounded by a gloomy chain of mountains; while the Val di Noto extended on the right like a long peninſula. I now diſcovered Ætna for the firſt time, towering above all the intermediate mountains, white with ſnow, and throwing out from its ſummit a conſtant but feeble ſtream of ſmoke. Lentiſcus is the general underwood of this foreſt, and is called by the Si-

cilians *ſtinco* *. Wild honey is found in great abundance in theſe woods, but the inhabitants have alſo hives near their houſes; its flavour is delicious, and has been celebrated from the remoteſt antiquity, for Hybla was ſituated in the centre of this country. Men may degenerate, may forget the arts by which they acquired renown; manufactures may fail, and commodities be debaſed; but the ſweets of the wild flowers of the wilderneſs, the induſtry and natural mechanicks of the bee, will continue without change or derogation. From the quality of ſoil, and the want of water, this upper part of the province muſt always have had a great deal of waſte land.

The corn wore the moſt promiſing appearance; the fallow-land ſeemed to be excellent ſoil. Twenty-three pair of oxen were ploughing together within a ſquare of thirty acres.

* Perhaps the name given it by the Germans, on account of its ſtrong diſagreeable ſmell.

Beyond the town we entered a very fine tract of vineyards, which improved as we gradually approached the mountains of Calatagerone.

Calatagerone, a royal city, containing about ſeventeen thouſand inhabitants, living by agriculture and the making of potter's ware, is twenty miles from the ſea, and ſituated on the ſummit of a very high, inſulated hill, emboſomed in thick groves of cypreſſes; the road to it, though paved, is very ſteep, difficult, and dangerous for any thing but a mule or an aſs. I was conducted to the college of the late Jeſuits; and, as the houſe was compleatly ſtripped of furniture, full of dirt and cobwebs, I apprehended my night's lodgings would be but indifferent. The ſervant belonging to the gentleman who has the management of this forfeited eſtate, and to whom I had brought a letter requeſting a lodging in the college, perceiving the difficulties we lay under in making our ſettlement, ran home, and returned in a ſhort time with a polite invitation to his

maſter's

maſter's houſe. There was no refuſing ſuch an offer, though I was far from expecting any thing beyond a comfortable apartment, and homely fare, in a family ſettled among the inland mountains of Sicily; but, to my great ſurprize, I found the houſe of the baron of Roſabia large, convenient, and fitted up in a modern taſte with furniture that would be deemed elegant in any capital city in Europe. Every thing ſuited this outward ſhew; attendance, table, plate, and equipage. The baron and his lady, having both travelled and ſeen a great deal of the world, had returned to ſettle in their native city, where they aſſured me I might find many families equally improved by an acquaintance with the manners of foreign countries, or, at leaſt a frequentation, of the beſt company in their own metropolis. Nothing could be more eaſy and polite than their addreſs and converſation; and my aſtoniſhment was hourly increaſing during my whole ſtay. After I had refreſhed myſelf with a ſhort but excel-

lent meal, they took me out in a very handſome coach. It was a ſingular circumſtance to meet a ſtring of carriages full of well-dreſſed ladies and gentlemen on the ſummit of a mountain, which no vehicle can aſcend, unleſs it be previouſly taken to pieces, and placed upon the backs of mules. We ſeemed to be ſeated among the clouds. As the vaſt expanſe of the hills and vales grew dim with the evening vapours, our parading reſembled the amuſements of the heathen gods in ſome poems and pictures, driving about Olympus, and looking down at the mortals below.

The hour of airing being expired, which conſiſted of ſix turns of about half a mile each, a numerous aſſembly was formed at the baron's houſe; the manners of the company were extremely poliſhed, and the French language familiar to the greateſt part of it. When the card-tables were removed, a handſome ſupper, dreſſed by a French cook, was ſerved up, with excellent foreign and Sicilian wines; the converſation

verſation took a lively turn, and was well ſupported till midnight, when we all retired to reſt. Calatagerone has ſeveral houſes that live in the ſame elegant ſtyle, and its inhabitants have the reputation of being the politeſt people in the iſland. The climate in this elevated region is extremely different from that of the tepid ſhores I had lately frequented; the night-air was ſharp and froſty, and a cloth-coat very neceſſary. Every perſon in the aſſembly carried a ſmall ſilver vaſe full of hot embers hanging at the wriſt.

The town preſents few objects worthy a traveller's notice in the line of any of the arts, and the antiquities it poſſeſſes relate to other places. Much has been written by ſome of the natives to eſtabliſh an idea of its high antiquity, and that it figured as a republick among the Sicilians, during the zenith of Grecian glory, by the name of Inland Gela or Gelone. The Saracens fortified it, but the Genoeſe wreſted it from them: their force was however dwindled to a

ſhadow when the Normans arrived. Earl Roger availed himſelf on many occaſions of the truſty valour of the Calatageroneſe, and rewarded them liberally with eſtates, which are ſtill in their poſſeſſion, and render the corporation one of the richeſt in Sicily.

After leaving the baron's hoſpitable and agreeable roof, I traverſed a plain of arable land ſurrounded by bare hills in tillage. The ancient city of Mineo crowns a mountain on the right, and oppoſite to it the view opens, and diſcovers a prodigious extent of flat country, that runs up to the foot of Ætna. I now diſtinguiſhed this gigantic mountain from its ſnowy ſummit down to the corn-fields in the plain, that compoſe the laſt circle round its baſe. The middle region is dark with lavas and foreſts; below them the vineyards form a zone of a reddiſh brown colour. At this point we entered upon volcanic ground; the hillocks on each ſide of the road are mere heaps of lava in various degrees of hardneſs and colour. The

lands

lands are tilled with a ſpecies of plough that ſeems to have been invented in the earlieſt attempts at cultivation, and ſtill found of ſufficient powers for this triturated prolific ſoil. It conſiſts ſimply of one handle and a wooden coulter, and is drawn by mules, horſes, or oxen.

I ſlept at Palagonia *, that belongs to the ſame maſter as the monſters of La Bagaria. I brought no order to his agent, but was accommodated with a room, and in every reſpect treated as well by him as if I had come loaded with recommendations.

We had now a very hilly country to croſs on the ſkirts of the great plain of Catania. All the rocks that appeared were perfect lavas, ſome ſpeckled with white cryſtaliſations or ſchoerl; others thoroughly dark and extremely heavy.

* Palagonia contains 1400 inhabitants. It did not exiſt before the expulſion of the Saracens. In the time of Peter the Firſt it was the property of his famous Admiral Roger Lauria. It now belongs to the family of Gravina.

We

We ſoon after met cardinal Branciforte, biſhop of Girgenti, going to take poſſeſſion of his ſee. My people were ſo overjoyed at the ſight of ſome acquaintances among his Neapolitan domeſticks, and entered ſo deep into converſation, that they left me to proceed alone; mean while, wrapt up in the cotemplation of Ætna and its grand circumference, I ſuffered my mule to proceed at its own rate; the conſequence was, that the animal being unacquainted with the country, at the meeting of ſome croſs roads, took the moſt level but the wrong way, and in a ſhort time left ſo many hills between me and the right road, that my ſervants paſſed on without having a glimpſe of me. Upon waking out of my reverie I perceived that they were not following; but ſuppoſing they would ſoon overtake me, I trotted on towards a town which I took for Lentini. A runner of water drew my beaſt out of the path to a well, where an old woman was lying on the ground beating her breaſt and tearing her hair; ſhe was at the

ſame

ſame time, with aſtoniſhing volubility of tongue, ſcolding a very pretty girl, who ſtood near her, with a ſullen contemptuous countenance and ſteady attitude. My mule ſeemed as much ſurprized as I was with her noiſe and geſtures, and both of us heſitated ſome moments whether to approach or paſs at a diſtance. However, as the ſight of me had checked the matron's violence, I ventured to draw near and aſk the cauſe of it. That inſtant both the females ſprang forwards and addreſſed me together. They were ſo agitated and ſo boiſterous, that I could underſtand but little of their diſcourſe; the only words I could make out were love, murder, banditti, marriage, the archprieſt, and the devil. The old woman's voice failed firſt, and immediately the young one ſeizing me by the coat, and my mule by the mane, repeated the cauſe of their quarrel in a moſt pleaſing tone of voice.

She was the handſomeſt woman I had ſeen in the iſland; her action was extremely graceful, but every nerve in her frame ſeemed to quiver with

with paſſion; numberleſs ſtrong expreſſions were, no doubt, loſt to me from my incompetent acquaintance with the provincial jargon; but I followed the thread of the ſtory without difficulty. As ſoon as ſhe had entered fairly upon the ſubject, the old woman ſuffered her to go on for ſome time without interruption.

This girl had been promiſed in marriage by her mother, the old woman, to a young man of their town; but, a few days before the time on which the wedding was to take place, he was drawn into a ſcuffle in which he killed his antagoniſt. Upon this, he fled to the mountains and joined the company of a famous captain of out-laws, who for twenty years had defied the whole tribe of thief-takers; he had ſeveral times cut his way through troops of *capitan real* and eſcaped by the fleetneſs of his horſe to the caverns and wilderneſſes that environ Caſtrogianni. However, the lover was ſcarcely entered as an aſſociate, before the captain and all his followers were ſurprized and carried in chains

chains to Catania. This account having reached the native town of the bridegroom, a meeting of his friends had been held, wherein the arch-prieſt and a lawyer had propoſed that a ſum of money ſhould be raiſed, which they would carry to Catania to buy him off; but unluckily the meeting was poor, and the only reſource they had was in a legacy left to the bride by an uncle: This money ſhe ſteadily refuſed to part with for a highwayman, a fellow ſhe would never marry, though he were to come back. Here the mother ſlipped in a few words to inform me, that the cauſe of this refuſal did not lie in her daughter's delicacy, but in her inconſtancy; for ſhe had fallen in love with another man, who had ſeduced her affections by ſecrets of the black-art that he had learnt at Malta.

The ſtorm now began to rage again, and with much difficulty I obtained a hearing. I told them I ſuſpected the lawyer meant to trick them out of their money, as it was impoſſible it could be of any avail in the caſe. I had been informed,

that the out-laws, whom the magiſtrates were determined to make an example of, would be hanged before he could reach Catania; and I, therefore, adviſed the two females to ſhake hands and be friends. They did ſo with the ſame vehemence that they had diſplayed in the courſe of the quarrel, and walked merrily along with me towards the town. I ſoon found by their diſcourſe that it was not Lentini; and, therefore, taking an abrupt leave of my company, I galloped back to the croſſing of the roads, leaving them, perhaps, impreſſed with an idea that I was a ſupernatural being, which my foreign accent and appearance would ſtrongly corroborate. I arrived at Lentini juſt as the campiere and a countryman were coming to look for me; my Neapolitan ſervant had laughed at them for their anxiety about me, aſſuring them, that he knew me too well to be under any apprehenſions for my ſafety, and that I had only wandered out of the road to draw an old wall, or watch the reflection of the rocks in a puddle.

SEC-

SECTION XLV.

LENTINI was esteemed one of the most ancient cities of Sicily, for the fruitfulness of its soil was supposed to have drawn inhabitants to it as soon as mankind emerged from the savage state, and discovered the advantages of agriculture and society. The Naxians were the first Greeks that invaded it, and from them it received the form and dignity of a principal city; like other Grecian states, it had its tyrants, but none of them were such severe masters as the Syracusans when they subdued this little commonwealth. The yoke grew daily more intolerable, and the Leontinians secretly applied for relief to Athens, at that time the umpire of Greece. The task of persuading that polite nation to engage warmly in their cause was imposed upon Gorgias, a citizen of uncommon eloquence, a talent well calculated for the present

ſent purpoſe; he wrought ſo artfully upon the paſſions of his hearers, that an alliance was formed, and war carried into the territories of Syracuſe; but time and experience opened the eyes of the Sicilians, and taught them to ſee the folly of deſtroying each other, ſo peace was made, and the Leontinians ſubmitted to act a ſubordinate part and enjoy the bleſſings of tranquillity under the guardianſhip of their more powerful neighbours. Diſſentions, however, aroſe; tyrants diſturbed their quiet, and various calamities afflicted them, till Rome overcame all oppoſition, and eſtabliſhed her deſpotic ſway throughout the iſland; but as this people had always acted in concert with her enemies, ſhe confiſcated and appropriated the Leontine plains peculiarly to the maintenance of the people of Rome. However a competency ſeems to have been left, for the Leontinians were reputed the greateſt drunkards and voluptuaries among the Greeks long after they had loſt their liberty.

Lentini, once a city of note, is now a poor ill-built

built, ſolitary town, reduced to this ſtate by various revolutions, but principally by the deſolation of 1693. All its buildings were thrown down, and nothing is left that can detain a curious ſtranger an hour; the preſent dwellings are plain and humble.

The ſituation is very unwholeſome during ſummer and autumn, on accout of its vicinity to the lake of Biveri, and a great ſpace of country covered with fens and ponds, which in all ages have infected its atmoſphere. Theſe waters abound with eels and tench; of the roes the fiſhermen make a large quantity of butarga, a ſpecies of caviar; it is very ſalt, and has a ſtrong taſte of tar, but is much reliſhed by the Sicilians.

The hills that incloſe Lentini on the eaſt ſide are hollowed into many large cavities, where ſaltpetre is produced in great quantities; people are conſtantly employed in ſcraping it off the walls and carrying it to a boiler. As few remnants of ancient buildings are now to be met

with, I ſuppoſe the materials were employed in the conſtruction of a caſtle, which in its turn is compleatly ruined.

The fertility of the Leontine plains has been a conſtant theme for admiration and declamation to all authors that have written on the hiſtory of the iſland *. Diodorus, from the report of others, ſays, that in the Leontine fields, and many other parts of Sicily, wheat grew wild; but whether he meant the common couch-graſs, which is called by botaniſts *triticum ſylveſtre*, or any other plant, which by culture could be ſo improved as to produce a grain fit for grinding into wholeſome flour, is a point not ſufficiently explained. It is clear that the wheat plant muſt have ſuffered ſome alteration under the

* Ἐν δὲ τῷ Λεοντίνῳ πεδίῳ καὶ κατὰ πολλὰς ἄλλας τόπους τῆς Σικελίας μέχρι τῦ νῦν φυεσθαί φάσιν τὸν ἀγρίως ὀνομαζομένους πυρούς.

In Leontinâ planitie et apud multos alios locos Siciliæ uſque ad hunc diem dicunt gigni triticum quod agreſte vocant.

operations

operations of agriculture, and cannot be ſuppoſed to reſemble exactly the wild original plant that ſtill grows on the waſte. But we have not ſufficient documents to prove that Sicily is the country where the diſcovery of the good qualities of this grain was made, and from whence other countries have derived their knowledge of that branch of huſbandry *.

About

* Nummi Leontinorum.

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. Apollinis inter 2 folia ſubt. leo currens AEONTINON—Figura vir. in quadr. ſupervolit. vict. ſubt. leo.
2. Cap. leonis 4 grana hordei AEONTINON—Vir nudus equo incidens.
3. Cap. Apoll.—Cap. leon. 4 gran. AEONTINON.
4. Cap. imb.—Gran. hord. AEON.
5. Cap. leon. AEONT—Vir nud. ſtans d. paterem s. ramum pone fol.
6. Cap. Apoll.—Cap. leon. tripus 3 fol. AEONTINON.
7. Leo dimid. reſpiciens ungue tenens oſſa—quatuor areæ decuſs. lacerta AEO.

About two miles from Lentini, we paſſed before Carlentini, a town of three thouſand ſouls, built by Charles the Fifth, and almoſt ruined

8. Leo dim. reſp. ΛΕΟΝΤΙΝΩΝ—Haſta et clave 2 glob.
9. Cap. Leon. 4 gran.—In corona heder. ΛΕΟΝΤΙΝΩΝ.
10. Cap. Bacchi hed. cor. ΛΕΟΝΤΙΝΩΝ—Cap. Leon. 4 gr.

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. imb. laus.—Ceres ſtans d. duas ſpicas s. lanc. ten. aratrum ΛΕΟΝΤΙΝΩΝ.
2. Cap. Cereris, atrum—Manipulus ſpicarum ΛΕΟΝΤΙΝΩΝ.
3. 2 capita Jugata alt. imb. alt. barb.—Manip. ΛΕΟΝΤΙΝΩΝ.
4. Cap. Apoll. duplici lauro coron. ΛΕΟΝ—Aquila et coluba.
5. Cap. Apoll. 2 piſces ΛΕΟΝΤΙΝΩΝ.
6. Cap. imb.—pagurus—Mulier vel. ſt. d. papaves s. tridentem ten. ΛΕΟΝΤΙΝΟΝ.
7. Cap. Apoll.—Aratrum—Leo gradiens ΛΕΟΝΤΙΝΩΝ.
8. Cap. Apoll. gran. ΛΕΟΝ—Tripus et 2 gran.
9. Dimid. Leonis—Area quadrif. o. x. vas.
10. Dimid. Leon.—Area quadr.—globus et ramus.
11. Cap. imb. laur. Olor ΛΕΟ ΓΟΡΓΙΑΣ.

by

by an earthquake. It was placed on an eminence, to be out of the reach of the unwholeſome vapours of the marſhes. The country behind is very pleaſant, and reſembles many tracks of foreſt land in the ſouth of England; the hills are of moderate elevation, ſeparated by wild, woody dingles, with clear brooks tumbling down the rocks, overſhadowed by large unlopped olive-trees. In the courſe of a few miles, the landſcape grew much barer and the hills higher; the ſurface ſtony, with a ragged covering of ſhort graſs. It poſſeſſes few romantic beauties, except where the grey rocks yawn to yield a paſſage for the torrents, and where ſome wild fig-trees hang over the gloomy hollows. From the elevation of the country, a variety of exquiſite views may be enjoyed on every ſide, principally towards the north-eaſt, where Ætna, Catania, the ſtreights of Meſſina, and the coaſt of Italy, form the grand line of the horizon. The ſtrata of the hills near Lentini are to be claſſed with the volcanic tribe of ſtones; theſe

ended gradually as I approached the ſea, and were ſucceeded by a cementation of marine ſediments. The flocks of ſheep that wander in the paſtures are almoſt all black; the ewes had already yeaned. I now came to the brow of this high country, and commanded the whole tract of low lands along the gulf of Auguſta. The vale immediately at the foot of the hills is neatly planted with Agrumi, and divided into vineyards and gardens, watered by copious ſtreams that turn a ſtring of mills. Beyond this well-cultivated ſlip of land, lies a wide range of barren heath along the ſea-ſhore. Auguſta is a fine object from this point of view, ſituated on a narrow peninſula at the bottom of a bay. We ſoon after deſcended to the beach, near an ancient monument called L'Agulia, or Needle, ſuppoſed to have been erected by Marcellus in commemoration of his conqueſt of Syracuſe *. It conſiſts of a pedeſtal, nine feet ſquare, built with ſeven courſes of ſtones. It has the zocle

* D'Orville thinks it was a tomb.

THE COLUMN OF MARCELLUS AT THE MAGNISI BETWEEN AUGUSTA AND SYRACUSE.

entire, and faint traces of the cornice. Upon this was placed a round building, of which eight courſes of the ſtone-work remain, but much ſhaken; the upper part was thrown down in 1542, by the ſhock of an earthquake. Fazzello ſays it was of a pyramidical form; but as that author ſhews little knowledge of architecture on other occaſions, I rather truſt to the teſtimony of the part that remains; this is clearly round, and indicates a column of many pieces, not a pyramid. Two attempts have been made to break into the dye of the pedeſtal, in hopes of hidden treaſure; but, as they do not ſeem to have been able to penetrate, I infer that the whole is a ſolid piece of maſonry.

On a hill weſtward is Melelli, a town where the ſugar-cane is ſtill cultivated. Near the ſea are ponds for making ſalt, which is piled up in great conical heaps. At the point of the peninſula of Magniſi is one of the moſt productive tunny fiſheries in Sicily. After four miles riding from the Aguglia, we came to a ridge of

high rocks that run from eaſt to weſt, and ſhut up the plain entirely. On the ſummit are the ruins of the walls, with which the ancient city of Syracuſe was ſurrounded; an aſcent is cut through the rock, at a place called Scala Greca, where the tower is ſuppoſed to have ſtood that was ſurpriſed by the Romans. Having gained the ſummit, I traverſed a large plain, four miles wide, full of looſe ſtones, but divided into orchards. I then arrived at the deſcent on the ſouth ſide, and had a full view of Syracuſe and its environs. The biſhop of this ſee, who was apprized of my coming, was ſo obliging as to meet me out of town, and carry me in his coach to a very handſome apartment in his palace.

SYRACUSE.

SYRACUSE.

SECTION XLVI.

THE fame of ſtates now no longer exiſting lives in books or tradition; and we reverence their memory in proportion to the wiſdom of their laws, the private virtues of their citizens, the policy and courage with which they defended their own dominions, or advanced their victorious ſtandards into thoſe of their enemies: ſome nations have rendered their name illuſtrious, though their virtues and valour had but a very confined ſphere to move in; while other commonwealths and monarchies have ſubdued worlds, and roamed over whole continents

in

in ſearch of power and glory. Syracuſe muſt be numbered in the former claſs, and among the moſt diſtinguiſhed of that claſs: In public and private wealth, magnificence of buildings, military renown, and excellence in all arts and ſciences, it ranks higher than moſt nations of antiquity; the great names recorded in its annals ſtill command our veneration, though the trophies of their victories, and the monuments of their ſkill, have long been ſwept away by the hand of time *.

In

* Nummi Syracuſanorum.

Ex Auro.

1. Jovis caput laur. fulmen ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Pegaſus ΑΥΣΟΝ.
2. Cap. Herculis imb. ΣΥΡΑΚ—Area quadrifida in medio cap. muliebre ΣΥΡΑ.
3. Cap. mulieb. concha lyra ΣΩΤΕΙΡΑ—Cap. Apoll. lyra et triangulum ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΟΝ.
4. Cap. Apoll.—Lyra ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
5. Cap. Apoll.—Vas ardens—Tripus ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
6. Cap. mulieb. gran. hord. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ ΚΙ—Hercules leon. ſtran. gran.

7. Cap.

In the ſketch prefixed to this tour, the Sicilian hiſtory is in a manner that of Syracuſe, and therefore ſufficient to give as much inſight into the revolutions of that republick, as is neceſſary for underſtanding my obſervations on its preſent ſtate. Its chronicles commemorate endleſs and bitter diſſentions among the ſeveral ranks of citizens, the deſtruction of liberty by tyrants, their

7. Cap. mul. 4 delph.—Vir in quadr. triquetra ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
8. Cap. vir imb.—Vir in biga trique. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
9. Cap. Cereris—cornucopiæ ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Biga in qua vir alat. barb. luna annulus ΕΠΙΗΚΕΤΑ.
10. Cap. imb.—Vir in biga Τ ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
11. Cap. mul.—Sæpia.
12. Cap. mulieb. eleph. dent. cor.—Bos ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
13. Cap. mul. diad. 4 piſc. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Quadriga fig. ſtol. ſuperv. vict. corona. ſpica.
14. Vultus plenus capill. contort. ſpic. cor. 4 piſc.—Biga ſup. vol. vict. et cor. imp.
15. Cap. Pallad. gal.—Cap. Meduſæ.
16. Cap. id. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Diana grad. pharet. arc. tend. canis ad pedes ΣΩ ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

17. Cap.

their expulſion and re-eſtabliſhment, victories over the Carthaginians, and many noble ſtruggles to vindicate the rights of mankind, till the fatal hour arrived when the Roman Leviathan ſwallowed all up. Inglorious peace and inſignificance was afterwards for many ages the lot of Syracuſe; and, probably, the ſituation was an eligible one, except in times of ſuch governors

17. Cap. id. cap. bovis N—Pegaſus ?
18. Cap. Apoll. ΠΝ—Cap. Dianæ arcus.
19. Cap. imb. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Equus decurrens in quadratâ areâ ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
20. Jovis Cap. ΥΣ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΟΣ—Pegaſus ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. Palladis gal.—Dianæ phar. canis ΙΞΑ.
2. Cap. mul. priſc.—ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Polypus.
3. Cap. mul. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Vir nud. equo inſ.
4. Facies mul. pl. 3 priſc.—Vir nud. eques. lyra.
5. Cap. averſa imb. laur. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ priſc.—Equus ſtella.
6. Cap. mul. in quad.—Eques ΣΥΡΑ.
7. Cap. Apoll. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Triquetra.

nors as Verres. At length Rome herſelf fell in her turn a prey to conqueſt, and Barbarians divided her ample ſpoils. The Vandals ſeized upon Sicily; but it ſoon was wreſted from them by Theodoric the Goth, and at his death fell into the hands of the Eaſtern Emperor. Totila afflicted Syracuſe with a long but fruitleſs ſiege; but it was not ſo well defended againſt the

8. Cap. Cereris 3 priſc.—Vir togat. in quadr. ſupr. triquat. ΑΙ ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

9. Cap. Cerer. 4 piſc. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Quadr. Victor. tropæa.

10. Cap. mul. diad. 4 priſc.—Vict. in quadr. vict. ſuperv. cor. triton bifida cauda vas ten. humero-piſcis. ſquilla.

11. Cap. Herc. imb.—Quadrig. vict. ſupervol. 2 vaſe.

12. Fac. mul. plen. diad. capit. contort. 3 piſc.—Mulier. in quad. vict. ſuperv. I ſpica.

13. Cap. mul. 4 piſc. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Vir nud. in big. vict. ſuperſtante d. coronam ten.

14. Cap. Apoll. 4 priſc. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Vir in big. ſupervol. vict. leo.

15. Cap. Herc. barb.—Vir nud. in big. ΜΙΑ ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

16. In

the Saracens. Theſe cruel enemies took it twice, and exerciſed the moſt ſavage barbarities on the wretched inhabitants. The infidels kept poſſeſſion of it two hundred years, and made an obſtinate reſiſtance againſt earl Roger in this fortreſs, which was one of the laſt of their poſſeſſions that yielded to his victorious arms.

The

16. In area rotunda decuſs. cap. mul.—Biga ΣΥΡΑ.
17. Cap. mul. diad. 4 piſces ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Dimid. Pegaſi.
18. Cap. mul.—In quadr. area ΣΥΡΑ 2 piſces.
19. Cap. mul.—Area quadr.
20. Cap. Pall. Noctua ramo inſid. clava ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
21. Aquila ardeam diſcerp. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Pagurus 2 piſc.
22. Vir nud. trid. Jacul. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Prora navis.
23. Cap. Apoll.—Lyra ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
24. Cap. Jovis—Tridens 2 piſc. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
25. Cap. mul. plena facie 4 piſc. ΣΥ ΩΝ—Vir nud. clyp. et haſt. ten. leo.
26. Cap. Pall. piſc.—Fulmen ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ ΝΑΣ.
27. Cap. id.—Pegaſus ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ triquetra.
28. Cap. id. clava. piſcis ΣΥΡΑ—Pegaſus. triqu.

29. Cap.

The ancient city of Syracuſe was of a triangular form, and conſiſted of five parts or towns. Ortygia, or the iſland; Acradina, that faced the ſea; Tycha, joined to Acradina on the eaſt; Neapolis, which lay along the ſide of the great port; and, at the eaſtern extremity, Epipolæ, an uninhabited tract incloſed within the city-walls; ſome lofty rocks, crowned with ramparts, formed a ſtrong

29. Cap. id.—Pegaſus. triquetra.

30. Duo capita imb. gal. pegata—Pegaſus cum habenis A.

31. Cap. mulieb.—Pegaſus ΣΙ.

32. Cap. mal. cap. bovinum—Pegaſus ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

33. Cap. Pall.—Pegaſus bibens.

34. Cap. Herculis—In area quadr. cap. mul. ΣΥΡΑ.

35. Cap. mul. pl. facie—Noctue ram. inſiſt.

36. Cap. Jovis ΣΕΥΣ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΟΣ—Pegaſus ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

37. Cap. Jovis ΣΕΥΣ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΟΣ—Fulmen. gr. hord. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

38. Cap. Cereris ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Fig. Alata in big. fulm. ſpic. ΕΠΙΗΚΕΤΑ.

39. Cap. Apoll. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Cap. Dianæ tupus.

40. Cap.

a ſtrong defence all round, except in Neapolis, where the walls croſſed the low grounds. The circuit, according to Strabo, amounted to 180 ſtadia, or 22 Engliſh miles, and four furlongs; an account I once ſuſpected of exaggeration, but, after ſpending two days in tracing the ruins, and making reaſonable allowances for the

40. Cap. mul. plen. fac. gal. et alat. 4 piſces—Mulier in quadriga vict. ſuperv. 2 piſces.

41. Cap. mul. ſpicis red. 4 piſc. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Spica.

42. Cap. mul. 4 piſc. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Dimid. Pegaſi—ſtella.

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. vir rad.—Mul. grad. luna in capite et baculo in ſin. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

2. Idem—Fig. nud. d. cor. s. bacillum ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

3. Cap. vir imb.—Mul. ſtol. ſtans. d. ſceptr. s. bacul. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

4. Cap. vir. barb. ſpic. red.—Diana. canis.

5. Cap. Dianæ—Vir nud. phar. s. arc. d. cornuc. ΣΥΡΑ.

6. Cap. gal.—Victoria animal ſacrificans ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

7. Cap.

the encroachments of the ſea, I was convinced of the exactneſs of his meaſurement.

ORTYGIA.

Ortygia is of an oblong ſhape, about two miles in circumference, and lies between two bays, the great and ſmall harbour. The Siculi had a ſettlement here before Archias came from

7. Cap. mul. ΣΥΡΑ—ſtella in ar. decuſs.
8. Cap. Apoll. ΔΙΟΣ ΕΛΛΑΝΙΟΥ—Aquila fulm. inſid. ſtella ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
9. Cap. Apoll.—Aquila fulm. inſid. ſtella.
10. Cap. Jovis in laur.—Aquila lyra.
11. Cap. Herculis—Aquila.
12. Cap. barb. diad. lade—Tridens ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
13. Cap. Jovis—Mul. ſt. d. tem. s. haſt. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
14. Cap. mul. piſcis—Stella ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—piſces.
15. Cap. id.—polypus.
16. Mulieris facies plena—polypus.
17. Cap. mul. concha ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Taurus ΑΚ 2. piſces.
18. Cap. mul. concha.—Delphin, nux pinea ΣΥΡΑ.

from Corinth with his Greeks and drove them into the inland country. When population increaſed to that amazing degree that Ortygia became unable to contain the inhabitants, the narrow arm of the ſea that made it an iſland was filled up, and a peninſula formed. During the triumvirate, Sextus Pompeius treated Syracuſe with

19. Duo capita gal. Jug.—Delphin 3 Jacula. KO.
20. Cap. Pall. ΣΥΡΑ—Stella int. 2 delp.
21. Facies imb. plen.—Dimid. Pegaſi ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
22. Cap. Jov. ΕΛΕΟΣ—Dimid. Peg. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
23. Cap. mul. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Dim. Peg.
24. Cap. vir. laur. imb. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Dim. Equi delp.
25. Pall. cap. gal. 2 delph. ΣΥΡΑ—Piſtrix triquetra.
26. Cap. imb. vir. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΟΝ—Piſtrix.
27. Cap. martis ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Pegaſus Σ.
28. Cap. Apoll. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Pegaſus A.
29. Minotaurus cap. pleno delph. 2 ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Vir nud. in quad. Vict. ſupero. 2 corones imp.
30. Cap. mul. Apis—Vir. nud. in quadr. ſtella ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
31. Cap. mul. 4 delph. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—mulier in biga vict. ſupera.

32. Cap.

with great rigour, and when it was reſtored by order of Auguſtus, the citizens were confined to the original iſland, and the parts of Acradina that bordered upon it, and the reſt of the moſt magnificent city in the world was left to become the habitation of wild beaſts, and birds of the night. Such was its ſtate when taken by the Muſſul-

32. Cap. mul. ſpica ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Biga. ſtella. T.

33. Cap. vir. barb. laur.—Vict. in biga. luna ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

34. Dianæ cap. ΣΩΤΕΙΡΑ—Fulmen ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

35. Cap. Jovis—Fulmen Acis ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

36. Cap. Pall.—Fulmen ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

37. Cap. Jov. ΣΕΥΣ ΕΛΕΘΕΡΙΟΣ—Pegaſus ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

38. Cap. Herculis—Pegaſus.

39. Duo cap. Jug. 2 piſces ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.—Equus N ſpica.

40. Cap. imb.—equus.

41. Cap. barb.—mul. ſtans d. ferciam s. haſt. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

42. Cap. imb. ſpic. red.—Ceres d. papau. s. tædam. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

Muſſulmen; it then ſuffered ſtill farther devaſtation, and was reduced to Ortygia alone. At preſent it is ſtrongly fortified towards the land; and the ditches of the baſtions form the communications between the two havens. It is very weak towards the ſea; but the ſhelves render it hazardous to debark on that ſide. The garriſon

43. Cereris cap.—2 tædæ ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
44. Cap. imb. gram. red. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—In coron. pamp. aretrum.
45. Cap. Cerer. cornucopiæ—In coron. ſpicar. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
46. Cap. Gelonis diad. arcus ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ. Leo clava et arcus.
47. Cap. vir. diad. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.—Triquetra.
48. Nept. cap. trid—Triquetra ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
49. Cap. mul. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Dimid. minſt.
50. Cap. Hercul.—Pharet. arcus ΣΥ.
51. Cap. Apoll.—Pharetra ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
52. Cap. imb.—Clava ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
53. Cap. ſpic. red—In laureâ clava.
54. Cap. Pallad. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Eques haſtam ger. A.
55. Cap. imb.—Eques ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

56. Cap.

garriſon is one of the beſt-appointed in the kingdom; but I think the heights of Acradina command the works.

About eighteen thouſand inhabitants are now contained in it. The dwellings are far from being memorials of ancient Syracuſan architecture or opulence. In any other ſituation they might

56. Cap. Apoll.—Duo Equites manibus ſublatis ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

57. Cap. Hercul. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Minerva ſtans s. clyp. d. haſt. rota.

58. Cap. mul.—Leo ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

59. Cap. Apoll. delphin.—Tripus ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

60. Cap. min.—2 piſcus ΣΥΡΑ—Piſtrix.

61. Cap. radiat.—miles grad. cum haſt. et clyp. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

62. Cap. Jovis—Aquila tripus ΚΟ.

63. Cap. Jovis ΣΕΙΔΑ—tridens 2 piſces Σ.

64. Cap. imb. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Equus recumbens.

65. Cap. imb.—Flos. 2 ſpicæ ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

66. Duo cap. averſa barb.—Inſtrumentum quoddam ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.

67. Cap. Cereris—Pegaſus.

might be thought tolerable; but to obſervers who reflect on the ſtyle of thoſe buildings that probably once covered the ſame ground, the preſent edifices muſt have a mean appearance. The cathedral now dedicated to Our Lady of the Pillar, was the temple of Minerva, on the

68. Cap. Jovis—Mulier ſtans d. coron. s. haſt. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
69. Cap. Herculis—ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Minerva enſe et clyp. arm.
70. Cap. mul. olea. cor. red. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.—Bos cornupeta clava ΦΙΣ.
71. Cap. mul. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Dim. Pegaſi.
72. Cap. mul. gran. red. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ—Mulier in biga—ſtella Σ.
73. Cap. Jovis—Fulmen. piſcis ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
74. Cap. mul. diad—In 4 partibus ΣΥΡΑ. 2 piſces.
75. Cap. Apoll.—Triquetra.
76. Cap. imb.—Stella 4 radios 2 piſces ΣΥΡΑ.
77. Cap. vir. barb. ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ=Leo Φ
78. Cap. Apoll.—Polypus.
79. Cap. Jani rad. barb.—Locuſta ΣΥΡΑΚΟΣΙΩΝ.
80. Cap. Cereris—Equus.
81. Cap. Minervæ—Pegaſus.

ſummit

ſummit of which her ſtatue was fixed, holding a broad refulgent ſhield. Every Syracuſan that ſailed out of the port was bound by his religion to carry honey, flowers, and aſhes, which he threw into the ſea, the inſtant he loſt ſight of the holy buckler; this was to enſure a ſafe return. The church is made out of the old building; the walls of the cella are thrown down, and only as much left in pillars as is neceſſary to ſupport the roof; the intercolumniations of the peryſtile are walled up *. This temple is built in the old Doric proportions uſed in the reſt of Sicily; its exterior dimenſions are 185 feet in length, and 75 in breadth. The columns taper, have twenty flutings, and meaſure at the baſe ſix feet five inches; their

* Mirabella has given a moſt erroneous drawing of this temple; and D'Orville's draughtſman has indulged his imagination, without paying any attention to the preſent ſtate of the edifice. The work lately publiſhed by Mr Houel, a French painter, contains different views of this edifice.

height, including the capital, and a ſmall ſocle inſtead of baſe, is 32 feet 9 inches.

The portico and frontiſpiece were deſtroyed by an earthquake, and a new facade erected, which reflects little honour on the judgement or ſkill of the architect; he has compoſed a front of the Corinthian order, quite different from the ſtyle of the inſide, and loaded it with ſo many frivolous ornaments, and ſubdivided it into ſo many trifling parts, that all grandeur of effect, ſymmetry, and taſte, are compleatly baniſhed. There are alſo ſome remains of Diana's temple, near to St. Paul's church; but not remarkable. I could find no other ruins in the iſland, and indeed was ſurpriſed even theſe ſhould exiſt in a place ſo often devaſtated by enemies, and ſo ſhaken and unhinged by frequent convulſions of the globe. A moſt deſtructive ſhock happened in the ſixteenth century; but was ſlight, in compariſon of the horrid concuſſion of 1693. On the 11th of January, the earth ſhook during a ſpace of four minutes,

minutes, and overturned almoſt every city on the eaſtern coaſt. One fourth of the inhabitants of Syracuſe periſhed under the ruins of their houſes—Auguſta was levelled to the ground, with half its people cruſhed to death; but Catania had the largeſt proportion of calamity—Above ſixty thouſand perſons loſt their lives in Sicily in that fatal hour.

The quay is ſmall, yet I fear it is more than ſufficient for every commercial purpoſe of the port. Near it is a large pool of water defended from the ſea by a wall, and almoſt hidden by houſes on every other ſide.—The water is not ſalt, but brackiſh, and fit for no purpoſe but waſhing linen. This is the celebrated fountain of Arethuſa, whoſe ſoft poetical name is known to every reader.—The fable of the nymph and her conſtant lover Alpheus, the excellence of the ſpring, and the charms of its ſituation, are themes on which ancient and modern poets have indulged their fancy, and exerciſed their pens. Alas! how altered! rubbiſh chokes up its

its wholeſome ſources, the waves have found a paſſage through the rocks, which repeated earthquakes have ſplit; and not a fiſh is to be ſeen in it. Sometimes, after an earthquake, it has been left dry; and, at other times, the whole maſs of its waters have been tainted by ſubterraneous effluvia. Its fountain-head probably lies among the neighbouring hills. Not Arethuſa alone, but all the ſurrounding objects, imprint a melancholy ſenſation on the mind, while it draws a compariſon between the preſent humble ſtate of things, and their once flouriſhing condition. The ancients have left pompous deſcriptions of the traffic carried on in this well-ſituated port *, the almoſt incredible wealth poſſeſſed by its citizens, and the ſplendid edifices upon which they laviſhed a great part of their riches. I had already viewed the deſert

* It was common among the ancients to reprove any perſon boaſting of his own or another's wealth by a proverbial ſarcaſm: "The tenth part of a Syracuſan fortune "was more than all that."

ſites

ſites of many great ancient cities; and had as often mourned over their remains; but never did I feel the impreſſion of pity and regret ſo ſtrong as in wandering among the ruins of Syracuſe.

SECTION XLVII.

ACRADINA.

I PROCEEDED to Acradina, which extends over two conſiderable levels, the firſt low and even with the iſland, the other, divided from the firſt by a natural wall of rocks, lies on the ſame heights with Tycha. As I left my lodgings early, in order to ſpend the whole day in the old city, I formed a regular plan of riding round, cloſe to the walls, meaſuring and drawing every material object. In the low grounds ſtands the church of St. John, one of the oldeſt churches in Sicily; it covers the entrance

trance of immenſe catacombs, where the ancient Syracuſans buried their dead; the primitive faithful are ſuppoſed to have aſſembled here ſecretly in times of perſecution, and alſo to have interred their brethren in theſe vaults. The pillars of the church are in the oldeſt, heavieſt, and ſimpleſt ſtyle of Gothic, and the walls covered with very bad painting. I haſtened to the vaults, which are formed in ſtreets cut through one continued ſtratum of ſoft ſtone, a ſediment of marine bodies. Theſe ſubterraneous alleys croſs each other in many directions, and are hewn with more care and regularity than the catacombs of St. Januarius at Naples; thoſe of Rome are not to be compared with either. At ſtated diſtances I came to large circular rooms lined with ſtucco, and pierced at top to admit light and air. On each ſide of the walls are receſſes cut into the rock, and in the floor of theſe cavities coffins of all ſizes have been hollowed out, ſome even ſo ſmall as to be fit for nothing but the reception of a cat or a lap-

dog. In ſome places there are twenty troughs, one behind another; ſkeletons have been often found in them, with a piece of money in their mouths. I ſaw a gold coin of the time of Icetas that was juſt taken out of the jaws of a body found in a tomb here.

From hence I aſcended the hill to a convent of Capuchin friars, a light neat church. When a ſtranger walks up to this monaſtery, he ſees near him neither verdure nor tree; all appears one bare dreary rock, and little does he ſuſpect he is within reach of extenſive orchards, which by their produce yield a handſome income to the friars. No ſight can be more ſingular than the gardens of this convent, which are in ſome meaſure ſubterraneous, being contained in the areas of immenſe excavations, made by cutting ſtone for the ancient city. I deſcended by a ſlope into theſe extraordinary bowers, where my view was confined on all ſides by ſhaggy walls of great height, either purpoſely hewn into ſhape, or rudely figured by the corroſive

ſea

ſea air. Huge maſſes have been broken off, and rolled on the platform, where they contribute to the compoſition of a moſt wild, yet ſolemn picture. The area is covered with a thick grove of trees, loaded with rich-ſcented bloſſoms and beautiful fruit; I was delighted with their variety of kinds, vigour of growth, and brilliancy of foliage; the ſlim branches of the pale olive were interwoven with the buſhy heads of orange, lemon, bergamot and cedrat-trees, while the tender colour of the full-blown almond formed a fine contraſt with the fiery buds of the pomegranate, juſt burſting into blow. The gardeners have ſkilfully increaſed the variety of their fruits by grafting and budding, and have procured a great diverſity in their taſte and colour. One of the friars brought me an orange, half of which was the original red pulp of that fruit, the other half was the tough pale fleſh of the cedrato.

There are ſeveral ſepulchres in theſe quarries, and ſome projections of the ſtone are ſcooped

into rings, by which I conjecture, that, after the place ceaſed to be uſed as a quarry, it was converted into a priſon.

The vaults of this convent have the property of drying the bodies of the dead in a very ſhort ſpace of time; after which they are dreſſed in religious habits, and placed as ſtatues in niches on each ſide of ſubterraneous alleys.

I paſſed on to the ſea ſide, where no traces of antiquity ſubſiſt, except ſome ſteps and a few courſes of ſtones; not a veſtige of houſe, temple, or monument, is to be ſeen on this extenſive plain, once the moſt crowded, beſt-built quarter of Syracuſe. It is difficult to conceive what can ſo thoroughly have cleared the ſurface, or, as I may ſay, annihilated the materials with which ſo large a city was built; the rock is ſoft and friable, but ſcarcely ſo brittle as to fall into duſt in the air, and be quite blown away; nor could any works or buildings within many miles of Syracuſe have employed a tenth part of what was neceſſary for the conſtruction

of

of ſuch a town. The ſea has undermined the ſhore, and conſumed that part on which the walls were founded.

SECTION XLVIII.

AT the bottom of the bay of Manghiſi, formerly called Thapſus, near the port of the Trogili, now called Stentino, Achradina terminated, and Tycha commenced.

TYCHA.

The outermoſt wall erected by Dionyſius the elder is viſible without interruption for ſome miles, following all the ſinuoſities of the hill from Scala Græca, through which I had entered this ancient incloſure. At a ſmall diſtance from this place, I came to a ſecond gate, of which a great part is yet ſtanding. From hence I traced a ſtreet by the marks of wheels deeply worn in the rock, and by the holes in the middle

dle where the beaſts that drew the carriages placed their feet; this indicates that vehicles in common uſe were drawn by horſes yoked one before another. The ſame marks were viſible wherever any traces of ſtreets could be diſcovered. The fields within and near the walls are covered with immenſe heaps of ſtones thrown confuſedly together. On the outſide of the walls, a green ſlope reaches from the foot of the rocks to the plain, and is covered with aged olive-trees of great ſize.

EPIPOLÆ.

At the promontory, where the declivity is eaſy towards the country, and the grove remarkably thick, I diſcerned the traces of a high road: here I imagine ſtood that part of the wall that had ſix doors in it, and was called Hexapylum. A little farther, the hill grows contracted and almoſt covered with the ruins of a fortreſs, probably Eurialus; they are piled up on ſeveral hillocks, and command a full view of

the country on both ſides of Syracuſe. Towards the north, the eye wanders over vaſt plains, along a line of coaſt to the foot of Ætna, whoſe mighty cone ſhuts up the horizon with unſpeakable majeſty; the mountains of Italy riſe like clouds on each ſide of it. The ſouthern proſpect preſents a very different landſcape, but not leſs pleaſing; the city of Syracuſe ſeems to float on the boſom of the waters, guarding the entrance of its noble harbour. The Plemmyrian peninſula locks it in on the oppoſite ſhore, and beyond it a fine expanſe of ſea ſtretches away to Capè Paſſaro. The hills of Noto bound the view to the ſouth-weſt, and the fore-ground is a tract of rich level plains thickly planted and watered by the winding ſtreams of the Anapus.

* This ſpot was the extremity of Epipolæ, and conſequently of the whole city, but not of the rocks, which run two miles farther weſt, and terminate in a lofty protuberance, called from the extenſive proſpect it commands, Bel-

* Cluverius thinks that Epipolæ extended to Belvedere.

vedere.

vedere. Epipolæ was not taken into Syracuſe, and incloſed with walls, till the reign of the elder Dionyſius; he employed ſo many thouſands of men, carts, and oxen, and gave ſuch bounties to the able and active labourer, that in twenty days he compleated a wall of large hewn ſtone, three miles and ſix furlongs in length; the walls between Epipolæ, Tycha, and Neapolis were afterwards demoliſhed as uſeleſs.

I now purſued my round in a contrary direction, following the wall on the ſouth ſide of the city; parallel with its ruins, which are not ſo apparent here as on the northern aſpect, runs a ſtream brought from Monte Crimiti in ſubterraneous channels: it was thus kept out of ſight till it entered the walls, leſt any enemy ſhould diſcover it, and cut off the ſupply. Soon after the aqueduct has paſſed the place where the caſtle of Labdalum ſtood, the water appears above ground*; under the ruins of Labdalum

* Authors do not agree whether theſe or the Latomiæ in Neapolis were the priſons in which Dionyſius confined his enemies.

is a quarry, or latomiæ. Near this ſpot ſeveral ſtreets croſſed each other, but no remains are to be found of any buildings.

TYCHA.

I diſcovered two regular oblong areas, deep cut in the rocky ſtratum, which I ſuppoſe were the foundations of ſome hall or temple. Leaving the wall at a diſtance on my right hand, I rode along the ſtraight line of the ſtream, now received into an aqueduct upon arches, and conveyed to ſome mills, where it falls with great force, and afterwards tumbles down the ſteps of the ancient theatre at Neapolis.

NEAPOLIS.

As the greater portion of this place of entertainment was hewn out of the live rock, little detriment has accrued from the lapſe of ages; but all that was built upon this foundation has diſappeared. What remains forms a moſt romantic ſcene, for the white ſteps are half hid with buſhes of various kinds; ſome tall poplars wave their

their heads over the ruin, and the waters in full caſcades and beautiful maſſes roll from rock to rock. When the theatre was in its perfect ſtate, the approach to the upper ſeats was upon a level with Tycha; Acradina lay even with the middle part, and the people from Ortygia and Neapolis aſcended to it. Two broad roads, carried deep through the rock in a ſemicircular form, meeting at the theatre, opened eaſy communications between the high and the low town. On each ſide of theſe roads ſepulchral caves were hollowed out, and ſome ſtill retain the bodies depoſited within them. On the front wall of the grand circumambulatory paſſage (that ran horizontally through the Theatre, and, dividing the ſeats into two parts, ſerved as a general communication,) are two inſcriptions; one of them much damaged; the letters ΑΛΚΕΟΦΙΝ are legible, and perhaps are part of the architect's name—The other in diſtinct characters runs thus, ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΣΑΣ ΦΙΛΙΣΤΙΛΟΣ, a queen of whom no mention occurs in hiſtory, though

her medals in ſilver are frequently met with *. It is a diſpute whether ſhe was queen of Syracuſe or of ſome other country; Count Gaetani de la Torre, a learned antiquary and director of the college of Syracuſe, who firſt diſcovered theſe inſcriptions, believes her to have been

* Baron de Reideſd, author of "Le Voyage en Sicile et dans la Grande Grece" thinks the inſcription too perfect for ſuch antiquity, and the characters unlike thoſe uſed in the *firſt* ages of Greece. He ſpeaks of the medals having only the initials B and Φ upon them, whereas the words Βασιλισσας Φιλιστιδος are at full length on a coin actually in my poſſeſſion.—The tyrant ſhe is ſuppoſed to have been married to died only 368 years before Chriſt, conſequently many ages after the arts began to flouriſh in Greece.—Nor can I conceive what purpoſe the forging of this inſcription could anſwer.—If the impoſtor had wiſhed to eſtabliſh the fame of the unknown queen, he would have thrown out ſome hints of her parentage and hiſtory.

Ex Argento.

1, Cap. Muliebre velatum ſiniſtrorſum ad occiput ſpica.—Victoria in quadrigis monogr. Θ ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΣΑΣ ΦΙΛΙΣΤΙΔΟΣ.

2. Mul. Cap. velatum—Vict. alat. in biga. ΜΙ ΒΑΣΙΛΙΣΣΑΣ ΦΙΛΙΣΤΙΔΟΣ.

daughter

daughter to Philiſtus, and wife to the elder Dionyſius.

No part of the proſcenium now remains, the ſtone having been uſed in making fortifications, though many quarries were open all around, where ſtones might have been procured with almoſt equal eaſe; yet the engineers of Charles the Fifth's time made no ſcruple of calling the Goths and Saracens barbarians!

Drawing now nearer to the iſland, I entered the large latomiæ on the ſkirts of Neapolis, a moſt extraordinary ſpot. It conſiſts of a very ſpacious court, or area, round which runs a wall of rock of great height, ſo artfully cut as to cauſe the upper part to project very viſibly out of the perpendicular line, and thereby defeat every attempt to climb up. Near the ſummit of the rock is a channel which conveys part of the waters of the aqueduct to the city, and can with eaſe at any time be ſtopped and turned into the latomiæ. In the centre of the court is a huge inſulated ſtone, and upon it the ruins of a guard-

a guard-houſe; vaſt caverns penetrate into the heart of the rocks, and ſerve for ſalt petre works and roperies; but the excavation that appears moſt worthy of our notice, and gives name to the whole place, is that in the north-weſt corner, called the ear of Dionyſius *. It is 18 feet wide and 58 high, and runs into the heart of the hill, in the form of a capital S;

* Cluverius allows but one priſon of the latomiæ to have ever exiſted in Syracuſe, and places it in Epipolæ.—This cannot be exact, for we read of many priſoners being confined in the quarries previous to that year of Dionyſius's reign (the fourth) in which he built the walls of Epipolæ, the ſtone of which is exactly ſimilar to the rock of the latomiæ under Mongibelleſi. Before this fortification was made, ſuppoſing the quarry to have been opened at an earlier period, the priſon muſt have been in the open country, conſequently not a ſafe place of confinement. His imitator D'Orville finds nothing more particular in the form of the Ear of Dionyſius than in any other quarry. It appears by Mirabella's account, that the celebrated painter Michael Angelo Caravaggio firſt gave it the name of Orecchio, which has ſince been adopted by the Syracuſans.

the

the ſides are chiſſeled very ſmooth, and the roof covered, gradually narrowing almoſt to as ſharp a point as a Gothic arch; along this point runs a groove, or channel, which ſerved, as is ſuppoſed, to collect the ſounds that roſe from the ſpeakers below, and to convey them to a pipe in a ſmall double cell above, where they were heard with the greateſt diſtinctneſs; but this hearing place having been too much opened and alrered has loſt its virtue, as thoſe who have been let down from the top by a rope have found. There is a receſs like a chamber about the middle of the cave, and the bottom of the grotto is rounded off. It is impoſſible, after an attentive ſurvey of this place to entertain a doubt of its having been conſtructed intentionally for a priſon, and a liſtening place. Rings are cut out of the angles of the walls, where no doubt the more obnoxious criminals were faſtened. The echo at the mouth of the grotto is very loud; the tearing of a piece of paper made

as

as great a noiſe as a ſmart blow of a cudgel on a board would have done; a gun gave a report like thunder that vibrated for ſome ſeconds, but, farther in, theſe extraordinary effects, ceaſed. I have read in a Sicilian author of the laſt century, that an eminent muſician compoſed a canon for two voices, which when ſung in this cavern appeared to be performed by four.

SECTION XLIX.

EVERY thing contributed to render my ſtay at Syracuſe agreeable; the apartment allotted to me was convenient and elegant, and made my hours of retirement comfortable. The weather was pleaſant, and the perſons I met at the biſhop's table, ſociable and well-informed. This prelate, who is of the Syracuſan family of Alagona, ſupports his rank with dignity, and labours with ſuch aſſiduity in the duties of his epiſcopal office, that he ſcarcely allows himſelf to enjoy

enjoy an hour's leiſure in the whole courſe of the day. His converſation is pleaſing, inclining to a ſerious turn; his companions are of the ſame caſt of mind, and ſome of them men of conſiderable learning. The Abate Syneſio, his firſt vicar, is the author of ſeveral biographical and theological diſſertations.

The dioceſe of Syracuſe produces above forty different ſorts of wine; the honey of the hills is as clear as amber, and of a moſt delicious flavour; vegetables are admirable in their kinds, eſpecially broccoli, which grows to a prodigious ſize.

Syracuſe is the mildeſt climate for a winter's reſidence I ever lived in; two or three days of ſharp eaſterly winds excepted, the remainder of the winter months is in reality what we unfortunate inhabitants of the north would call ſpring. In ſummer the marſhes at the head of the port* exhale vapours that infect the air, and endanger the lives of the inhabitants. The caſe muſt

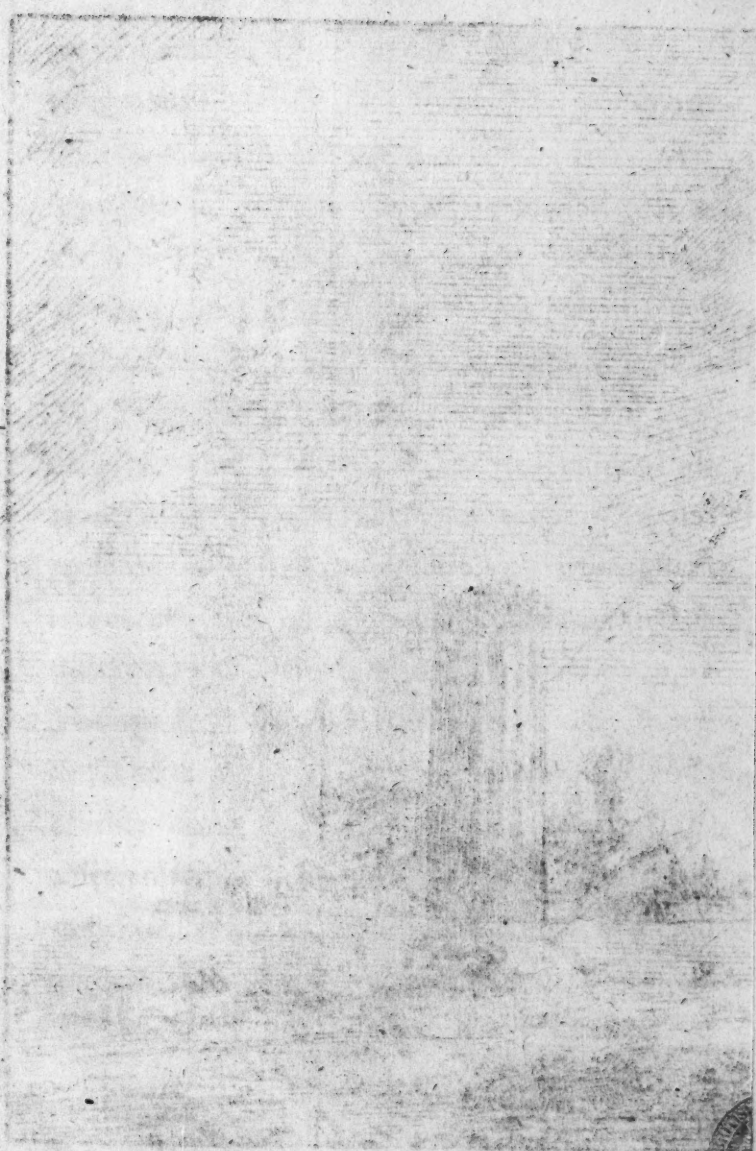
* The Syraca palus, from which the city took its name.

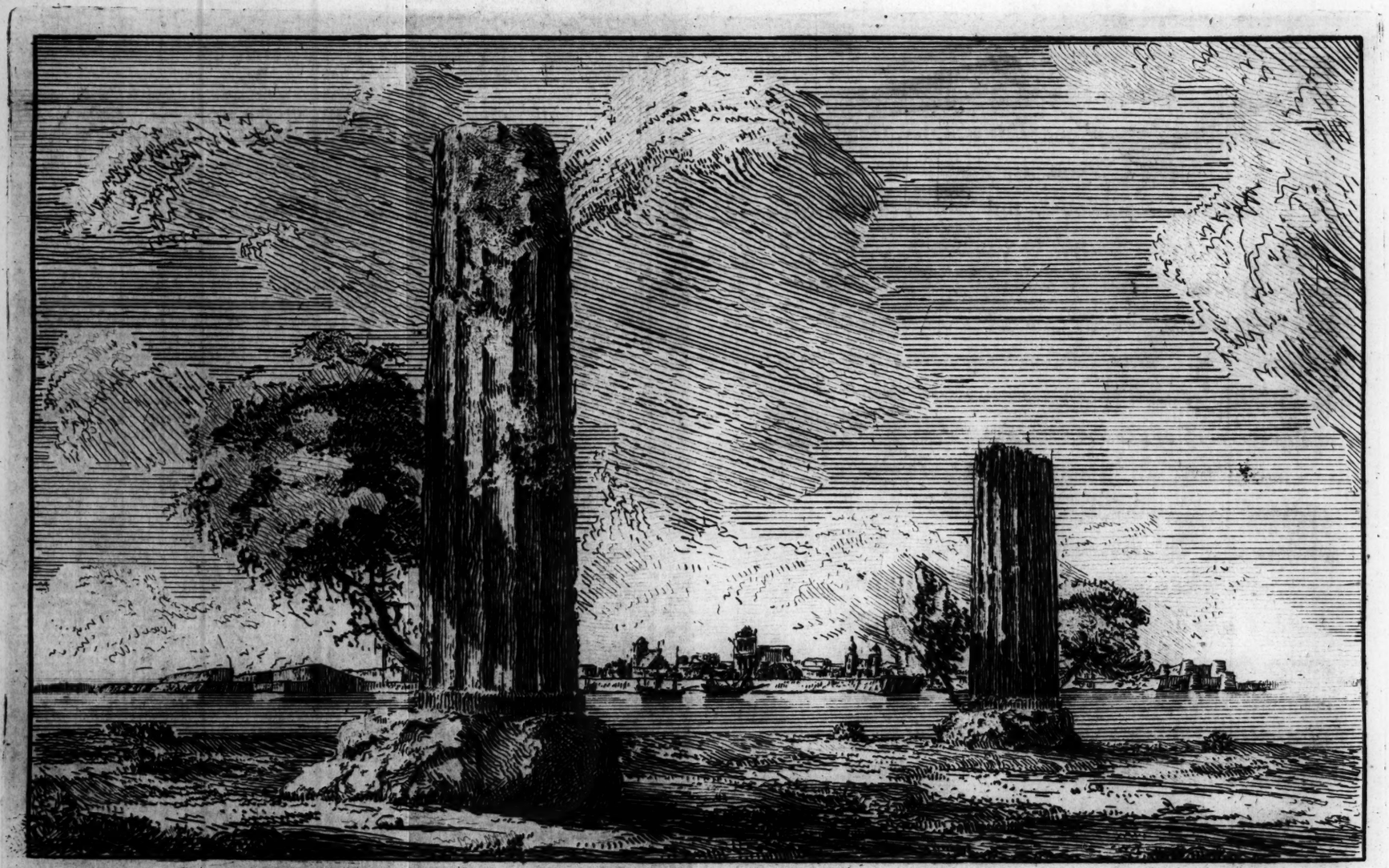
have

have always been the ſame, for, according to the hiſtory of their origin, the oracle of Apollo gave Archias and another adventurer, the choice of two ſettlements, one of which was to enjoy great power, but an unwholeſome climate; the other mediocrity of fortune with a healthy ſituation. Archias choſe the former, and Myſcellus, who founded Croton, the latter. In theſe fens the whole Carthaginian army, that came to reſcue Syracuſe from the Romans, periſhed of malignant fevers, not one ſingle man eſcaping.

On the 16th of January, the vines which are kept low and cloſe pruned, had ſhot out new leaves, the gardens were ſtudded with flowers, and freſh almonds were gathered from the trees. Sugar-canes ready-jointed for chewing are ſold in the market; ſalt is to be had almoſt gratis, for the common people ſeem to carry off what quantities they pleaſe from the heaps, without moleſtation.

One morning early, I took a boat, and croſſed the great port; which is rather more than five





RUINS OF THE TEMPLE OF JUPITER, OPPOSITE TO SYRACUSE.

miles round *; we ſteered for the mouth of the river Anapus, two miles from the iſland. Syracuſe has a wonderful effect from this point. The hills of the ancient city appear majeſtically above a thick wood that covers the ſhore; to the ſouth of this beautiful ſheet of water, riſes the bare and abrupt promontory of Maſſa Oliveri. The iſthmus that joins it to the main land is covered with a row of tall trees, and irregular clumps; ſome ſingle trees and houſes are ſcattered on the ſlope, upon a ſmooth lawn that terminates at the water edge. I landed beyond the river, to view the ruins of the Olympian ſuburb; little now remains except the mutilated ſhafts of two fluted columns, ſtanding at a conſiderable diſtance from each other: They are nineteen feet ſix inches round at the bottom, and have only ſixteen flutings; they reſt upon a plinth of two ſteps, each eighteen inches high. In the laſt century, ſeven columns were ſtill en-

* Strabo gives it 80 ſtadia, equal to ten miles, moſt probably an error of the tranſcribers.

tire;

tire; they belonged to the temple of Olympian Jove, which Gelo enriched with the ſpoils of the Carthaginians, about two thouſand five hundred years ago.

We then proceeded up the river, which is very clear and deep. On the ſouth ſide the ground riſes, but to the north, the country is a marſhy plain of great extent; the river follows a ſerpentine courſe through thickets of * the true Egyptian papyrus.

* This is a tall reed, with a brittle triangular ſtalk of a bright green colour. The root is knotty like thoſe of other reeds; the leaves are long and broad; but as the new ones had not yet acquired their full growth, I could not aſcertain their true colour. From the ſummit of the ſtem riſes a calyx of purple leaves, out of which iſſues a large round bunch of filaments: theſe again are ſplit at their extremity, and bear flowrets and ſmall ſeeds ſimilar to thoſe of the common ruſhes. From this appearance, the peaſants call it *parroca*, a perriwig. They make no uſe of it, but to deck out bowers for the paſſage of ſome religious proceſſion. The roots ſwim near the ſurface of the water, when the ſtalk falls, and ſtrike down numberleſs fibres that at length reach the ground, and produce freſh ſtems.

We left the river, and rowed up a ſtream that falls into it from the ſouth; the thickneſs of the aquatic plants, that ſhoot up through the water, impeded our progreſs, and made the voyage of ſix miles extremely tedious and fatiguing, eſpecially as the flatneſs of the country, and the trees that ſhade the banks, prevented my ſeeing above a few yards at a time on each ſide. We arrived at laſt at the head of this river, which riſes in a round pond twenty feet in diameter, and twenty-eight deep, as I found upon ſounding it in different places. Fazzello, and all thoſe that have written ſince his time, pretend no length of line can reach the bottom. The water is as clear as cryſtal, and full of fiſh; I could diſcern the bubbling of the ſpring at the bottom, and alſo ſome broken earthen ware.

This pool, now called Piſma, is at a great diſtance from the hills, and when joined by the ſtream that riſes in the Piſmotta, another ſimilar pond, forms a large body of water. In ancient times La Piſma was ſacred to the nymyh Cyane.

Cyane. Here it was that Pluto ſtruck the earth with his ſceptre, and plunged into the infernal regions with Proſerpine, the fair prize he had carried off from the flowery fields of Enna; here Cyane attempted to ſtop him, and, for her officiouſneſs, was by the angry god metamorphoſed into a fountain. Plutarch tells another ſtory of Cyane, but not ſo agreeable a piece of mythology, therefore I ſhall abide by the poetical origin of this ſource.

On my return to Syracuſe, the biſhop procured me a ſight of the cameo of St. Lucy, a favour not eaſily obtained, as it conſtantly hangs at the breaſt of her ſtatue, and is locked up with it. This cameo is a very fine large ſtone of ſeveral layers of colour; it is cut down ſo as to repreſent three heads of men; the firſt, of a yellowiſh white caſt, is an emperor of a ſerious aſpect crowned with laurel, his frizzled hair joining his beard, and his chlamys buttoned on his ſhoulder. The next is a muddy red, and is intended for an African; a ſhirt faſtened round the

the throat, a cloak, thick lips, flattened noſe, are his diſtinctive marks; the third, perfectly white, is an elderly face, with lank hair, a ſcowling eye, and the under lip raiſed to the noſe. By a quibble on the colours, ſome connoiſſeurs have named theſe three heads, Severus, Peſcenius Niger, and Albinus; others call them the wiſe men of the eaſt.

JOURNEY TO MESSINA.

SECTION L.

JANUARY 20. Upon leaving Syracuſe, I directed my ſteps due north, meaſuring back many miles of the road that had led me thither. Auguſta was my next ſtation, eighteen miles diſtant by land, but not above nine by ſea; the length of the road is increaſed by the neceſſity of ſeeking a paſſage over two rivers, not fordable near their mouths. The country on each ſide of theſe ſtreams is exceedingly handſome, and the view of Auguſta at the bottom of a valley, through which the water meanders, remarkably picturesque.

This

This town, built by the emperor Frederick the Second *, near the ruins of the Greek city of Megara, covers a ſmall low peninſula, joined to Sicily on the north ſide by a long cauſeway. On each hand are extenſive ſalt-ponds. This projection forms a very fine harbour, opening to a ſouthern expoſure, but ſheltered by the points of the coaſt from both wind and ſwell; it has nine fathom of water in almoſt every part. A ruinous citadel guards the land gate; and three forts, built on little iſlands, defend the entrance of the port. The country along the oppoſite ſhore is beautifully diverſified in its culture.

The order of Malta, poſſeſſor of large eſtates near Lentini, has eſtabliſhed magazines at Au-

* From the epithets Divus Auguſtus in a modern inſcription over the town gate, it has been imagined that Octavianus Cæſar was the founder, and the Swabian prince the reſtorer only. Some learned men have brought a medal of Auguſtus to ſupport the idea; but, I believe, the coin has no connection with this place, and moreover doubt its genuineneſs.

guſta of ſalt meat, biſcuit, and flour, for the ſupply of their ſhips, that are continually paſſing between the iſlands. This gives a little animation to the place, which is ſcarcely yet recovered from the devaſtation cauſed in it by the earthquake of 1693. More than a third of the inhabitants were cruſhed to death by the falling of their houſes; the motion of the earth, or ſubterraneous vapours, ſet fire to the powder magazine in the citadel, which blew up, and added deſolation to deſolation; the water forts were ſplit to their foundations, and the light-houſe thrown headlong into the ſea*. Since that tremendous day, the town has been rebuilt on a regular plan, with low houſes to prevent miſchief whenever another ſhock ſhall happen.

* A gentleman aſſured me its preſent population amounted to ſixteen thouſand perſons, though the laſt enumerations fix it at nine thouſand two hundred and five. I cannot account for this great difference.

Auguſta was long a baronial fief; but, as it was a place of ſtrength neceſſary for the defence of the kingdom, it was purchaſed by the crown in 1567.

In

In the afternoon the whole town was in motion to attend a proceſſion in honour of St. Sebaſtian, one of the moſt favourite ſaints in the Sicilian calendar; he is particularly addreſſed in behalf of children afflicted with hernias. The miraculous cure is performed in the following manner: the large ſtage, or machine, on which his effigy is placed, is crowded with diſeaſed children, and then carried about the ſtreets on the ſhoulders of the inhabitants, who frequently fight for the honour of bearing the holy burden. The poor infants ſeemed ſcared out of their wits at being hoiſted ſo high on a tottering ſcaffold; this, and the awe which the pomp ſtrikes them with, has, as I was informed by a perſon of note in the place, conſiderable efficacy in contracting the affected parts, ſo as to appear leſs than uſual; but, leſt the motion and the fright ſhould not act with ſufficient power, the ſurgeon, whoſe province it is to inſpect the children and certify the cure, always gives the little patient a ſmart blow on the ear before he

proceeds to the examination. With theſe helps, appearances are generally ſuch as are deſired for the honour of the ſaint.

The day was clear, but there blew a cutting eaſterly wind, which cauſed me to remark the dreſs of a gentleman, a principal actor in the pageant; he wore a new unlined lute-ſtring, and notwithſtanding the Sicilians are affected by the leaſt chilneſs in the air, he was ſo well warmed within by devotion, that he ſeemed inſenſible of the cold.

Next morning we mounted our horſes very early, and rode directly north, over the high promontory of Santa Croce. The land very uneven, but cultivated with ſpirit. As ſoon as we reached the north ſide of the hill, and faced Ætna, I perceived that all the ſtones were lumps of black lava. We deſcended to the ſhore of the bay of Catania, at its ſouth-weſt angle, not far from La Brucca, a ſmall caricatore, and baited at a public houſe called Agnuni; near it are the foundations, and walls to the height

of ten feet, of a very large Gothic church, begun by king Frederick the Second, but left in an imperfect ſtate either on account of his death, or of the inſalubrity of the ſituation. Near this ſpot antiquaries place the emporium of Leontini, where the ſuperabundance of their produce was ſhipped for foreign parts.

In the neighbouring fields grows a great deal of rue and lupines. The waſte was already dreſſed in the ſweet garb of ſpring; the myrtle, woodbine, and wild roſe, were powdered with flowers; among them, an iris, of a bright brimſtone colour daſhed with purple, was very remarkable.

From hence we travelled many miles cloſe by the ſands of the ſea, and forded the river of Lentini at the place where it diſcharges itſelf into the bay. The weather had been ſo long dry, that there was no depth of water to create either difficulty or danger.

A ſpacious plain extends towards the inland country, and alſo along the ſhore, full of ponds

and marſhes, that abound with wild fowl of numberleſs ſorts. We ſhot ſeveral birds out of the flocks of ſnipes, teal, coots, ducks, &c. that roſe on all ſides, as we rode along; I never ſaw a finer field for a keen ſportſman than theſe *foggie*, the Sicilian name for marſhy grounds near the ſea. They are frequented by many fowlers; the report of guns was almoſt inceſſant; and wherever I turned my eyes, columns of ſmoke were aſcending from the fens. My campiere, who had often made one in theſe ſhooting parties, informed me, that it was uſual to wade, up to the middle, in the ſwamps, which in winter are full of water; and, on account of the banks, impracticable for boats. The fowler drags after him a couple of lackered baſkets for his ammunition and his game; while his dog ſwims before him, or runs along the ridges of dry ground, to ſpring the birds, and fetch them when ſhot. The fiſhing-net is not leſs amuſing or profitable than the gun; but as ſoon as the ſun enters the lion, this country

becomes the houſe of death; fevers of the moſt malignant kind ſeize upon the imprudent or unfortunate wretch that ſpends a night near them, and few eſcape with life when attacked by ſo virulent a diſorder.

We emerged from the fens to a noble plain, covered with promiſing crops of corn; but without a ſingle incloſure, or even tree. No country ſeems better calculated for pigeons; and indeed none has ſuch incredible flights of them: from their abundance they are conſidered as nuiſances, and therefore deemed public property. My ſoldier ſhot at them whenever they flew within reach; nay, he even ſtopped his horſe oppoſite a cottage, and fired at a cluſter of them baſking on the thatch; the muletier went to the place and picked up the ſlain, while the cottagers ſtood at the door as unconcerned as if we had ſhot a parcel of ſparrows on a hedge. My ſervants feaſted ſeveral days on this game; but enjoyed much more the eating of a magpie I ſhot for them.

The

The dwelling-houſes of the peaſants are ſmall conical huts, covered with ſtraw; and, I believe, unoccupied during part of the year. Through this boundleſs plain flow the waters of the Giarretta, one of the largeſt rivers in the iſland, deep and muddy. We paſſed it in a ferry, in Sicilian Giarretta, from whence the river takes its modern name; its ancient one was Simæthus.

We traverſed a large tract of arable ground, the ſoil a ſandy loam; then turned again to the ſhore, and ſoon after reached the horrid bed of lava which guſhed out of the ſide of Ætna in 1669, overwhelmed the greateſt part of Catania, filled up its port, and quenched itſelf at laſt in the depths of the ſea. It is ſtill black as a coal, and hard as iron, without the leaſt ſymptom of any vegetable ſeed or root being likely to take hold of its barren ſurface. We entered Catania by a triumphal arch of alternate courſes of lava and freeſtone.

SEC-

SECTION LI.

THE prince of Biſcari, to whom I was recommended, and to whoſe many amiable qualities every traveller, that has frequented his houſe, muſt bear honourable teſtimony, took upon him the taſk of being my antiquary. If my feeble voice can contribute any thing towards extending his well-deſerved reputation of benevolence, hoſpitality, and antiquarian zeal, I ſhall not be backward in corroborating the evidence of preceding writers; for I cannot think any of their praiſes extravagant, when I conſider how noble and patriotic the motives are, that have induced him to collect and preſerve the ſcattered memorials of his country's ancient ſplendor.—How much ſuperior he and his family ſhew themſelves to the prejudices of his fellow citizens! how well verſed he is in many branches of learning! and with what good-nature,

ture, eaſe, and frankneſs, he treats the perſons that come recommended to his notice! His collection is very rich and extenſive, eſpecially in Etruſcan vaſes, lamps, and antiquities of terra cotta. Every year brings new treaſures to this department from the ruins of Camarina in the Val di Noto, where the prince employs ſeveral hands in digging. One of the moſt remarkable lamps is moulded into the form of a camel, with an amphora on each ſide fixed in a cradle. —The water-carriers at Palermo uſe a ſimilar contrivance to this day, for conveying water upon aſſes. Among his buſts and ſtatues ſome are conſpicuous on account of the perfection of their ſculpture; others, from the celebrity of the perſons they repreſent. His favourite piece of ſtatuary is the torſo of a god, of heroic ſize, touched in a moſt maſterly ſtyle; the ſides and back are worked up with wonderful truth and knowledge.—The flowing contour and ſwelling of the muſcles are admirable both to the ſight and touch. The lavas and other productions

of

of Ætna compoſe a large diviſion of the cabinet, and a curious aſſortment of Sicilian foſſils and minerals fill up another. He informed me that no iron ore had yet been diſcovered in the iſland. The collection of cameos and intaglios, and the ſuite of Sicilian and Roman coins, are very valuable.

I was introduced by him to the canon Joſeph Recupero, a merry philoſopher, in ſpite of a lethargic diſpoſition, which frequently overpowers him, and will probably ſoon prove of fatal conſequence. He has ſtudied the phenomena and natural hiſtory of Ætna with great perſeverance, and acquired a profound knowledge of its operations and productions; he has publiſhed ſome diſſertations on the ſubject, abounding with ſagacious obſervations; and was then actually employed in reviſing and preparing for the preſs a voluminous hiſtory of the mountain; but his friends were apprehenſive he would not live long enough to complete it *. The canon

* He died a few months after I left Sicily, and had not the ſatisfaction of ſeeing the abolition of the Inquiſition, which took place in the Viceroyalty of the Marquis Caracciolo.

has

has renounced all thoughts of eccleſiaſtical preferment, of which he told me the door had been effectually ſhut againſt him on account of his bold, liberal way of thinking and ſpeaking; but it was a matter he was become quite indifferent to, as he ſhould ſpend the few days he had to live in happy retirement, at a ſmall country-houſe near town, where his good friend and patron the prince of Biſcari had provided for all his wants. He has a ſet of features very like thoſe of Socrates, whoſe good-nature and placid philoſophy he ſeems to have inherited.

The prince conducted me to the remains of the ancient city, which, on account of the numerous torrents of lava that have flowed out of Mount Ætna for theſe laſt thouſand years, and taken their deſtructive courſe this way, is now to be ſought for in dark caverns, many feet below the preſent ſurface of the earth.

Were it not for St. Agatha and Ætna, the annals of Catania would be barren and unintereſting; but the volcano, by its continual threats, and

and frequently by its ravages, has provided the Catanian hiſtorians with ample materials for diſſertation; while the ſaint, by the repelling virtues of her veil, furniſhes them with ſuch cauſes of triumph as reconciles them to the taſk of deſcribing the horrible phenomena of the mountain. I have peruſed ſeveral volumes of its hiſtory, without finding above a page of events worth ſelecting, except thoſe that relate to the conflagrations.

Catania was founded by the Chalcidians ſoon after the ſettlement of Syracuſe, and enjoyed great tranquillity till Hiero the Firſt expelled the whole body of citizens, and, after repleniſhing the town with a new ſtock of inhabitants, gave it the name of Ætna; immediately after his deceaſe, it regained its ancient name, and its citizens returned to their abodes. Catania fell into the hands of the Romans, among their earlieſt acquiſitions in Sicily, and became the reſidence of a prætor. To make it worthy of ſuch an honour, it was adorned with ſumptuous buildings

buildings of all kinds, and every convenience was procured to ſupply the natural and artificial wants of life. It was deſtroyed by Pompey's ſon, but reſtored with ſuperior magnificence by Auguſtus. The reign of Decius is famous, in the hiſtory of this city, for the martyrdom of its patroneſs St. Agatha. On every emergency her interceſſion is implored.—She is piouſly believed to have preſerved Catania from being overwhelmed by torrents of lava, or ſhaken to pieces by earthquakes; yet its ancient edifices are covered by repeated ſtreams of volcanic matter; and almoſt every houſe, even her own church, has been thrown to the ground. In the reign of William the Good, twenty thouſand Catanians, with their paſtor at their head, were deſtroyed before the ſacred veil could be properly placed to check the flames. In the laſt century the eruptions and earthquakes raged with redoubled violence, and Catania was twice demoliſhed.

The prince has been at infinite pains, and ſpent a large ſum of money, in working down

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to the ancient town. We deſcended into baths, ſepulchres, an amphitheatre, and a theatre, all very much injured by the various cataſtrophes that have befallen them. They were erected upon old beds of lava, and even built with ſquare pieces of the ſame ſubſtance, which in no inſtance appears to have been fuſed by the contact of new lavas. The ſciarra, or ſtones of cold lava, have conſtantly proved as ſtrong a barrier againſt the flowing torrent of fire, as any other ſtone could have been, though ſome authors were of opinion, that the hot matter would melt the old maſs, and incorporate with it.

This city has been frequently defended from the burning ſtreams by the ſolid maſs of its own ramparts, and by the air compreſſed between them and the lava; this appears by the torrent having ſtopped within a ſmall diſtance of the walls, and taken another direction. But when the walls were broken, or low, the lava collected itſelf till it roſe to a great height, and then poured over in a curve. A ſimilar inſtance is

ſeen at the Torre del Greco near Naples, where the ſtream of liquid fire from Veſuvius divided itſelf into two branches, and left a church untouched in the middle. There is a well at the foot of the old walls of Catania, where the lava, after running along the parapet, and then falling forwards, has produced a very complete lofty arch over the ſpring.

We next viſited the Benedictine convent of St. Nicholas, one of the largeſt I ever ſaw, belonging either to that, or any other religious order. Every part has been rebuilt ſince the earthquake of 1693. The principal front is overcharged with ornaments, and nothing in architecture can have a more diſagreeable effect than the decorations of the windows; the cloyſters are not quite compleat; the dormitories and galleries are ſo long that the perſpective view of them ſeems abſolutely to terminate in a point of light. The church is a noble fabrick, notwithſtanding ſeveral blameable things in the deſign; the iſles are too wide for the nave, and the

the altars are in a very vicious taſte; the architect ſeems in them to have ſtudied to deviate as much as poſſible from the real line of beauty. This is accounted the largeſt church in Sicily, though neither a porch nor cupola has been erected, from a doubt of the ſolidity of the foundations, which are no other than the bed of lava that ran out of Etna in 1669, and is ſuppoſed to be full of cavities. The organ is much eſteemed by connoiſſeurs in muſical inſtruments. One wing of the monaſtery is appropriated to a conſiderable muſæum of antiquity and natural hiſtory. It is eaſy to form a cabinet of Greek medals at Catania *; for the demands of the Biſcari

* Nummi Catanenſium.

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. imb. diad. KATANAI—Quadriga vict. ſuperv. cor. imp.
2. Jovis cap. quercea cor. red.—Sceptrum alat. KATANAIΩN.
3. Cap. Apoll. KATANAION—Biga.
4. Cap. vir imb.—Cap. ſenile barbatum.

cari collection have long drawn thither all perſons that had any to diſpoſe of, and that ſuite being nearly perfected, many coins muſt now be rejected, and left for other dilettanti. I purchaſed ſeveral of great rarity, and in excellent preſervation.

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5. Cap. Apoll. pleno vultu capill. horridis KATANAIΩN—Fig. in quadr. victoria ſupervol. piſcis KATANAIΩN.

6. Cap. Jovis cornut. KATANAIΩN—Fig. mulieb. d, lances s. cornucop. in laurea mon.

7. Cap. mul. coron. querc. oron. XOIKEΩN ΑΠΟΛΩN—Fig. in quadrig. vict. ſuperv. Squilla KATANAIΩN.

8. Cap. laur. imb HPAKΛEIAN—Id. typus.

9. Cap. imb. diad. piſcis ſquilla AMENAOΣ—Fig. in quadrig. vict. ſuperv. KATANAIΩN.

Ex Ære.

1. Anapias cum patre KATANAION—Amphinomus cum matre.

2. Fig. nud. rad. d. cornua. s. urceolum ten.—Noctua inſid. duob. pileis Dioſcur KATANAION.

3. Cap.

SECTION LII.

CATANIA is reviving with great ſplendour; and, when all the houſes now building are finiſhed, will be a very handſome city. It has already much more the features of a metropolis and royal reſidence than Palermo; the principal ſtreets are wide, ſtraight, and well-paved with lava. An obeliſk of red granite, placed

3. Cap. Jovis corn. KATANAION—Fig. mul. ſtans d. lances. s. cornucop. 3 anagr.
4. Cap. imb.—Mulier ſtans KATANAIΩN.
5. Cap. Bacchi barb.—Racemus KATANAIΩN.
6. Cap. Jani—Mulier ſtans d. Flabellum s. trid. KATANAIΩN.
7. Cap. Bacchi imb.—ΘΑΛΑΣΣΙΟ—Anapias et Amphinomus KATANAIΩN.
8. Cap. Apoll. KATAN—Mulier in curru a duob tygr. duct. s. thyrſum ten.
9. Cap. ſolis pleno vultu—Fig. nud. in big. ſuperv. vict.

placed on the back of an antique elephant of touchſtone, ſtands in the centre of the great ſquare, which is formed by the town-hall, ſeminary, and cathedral. The cathedral erected by the Abbot Angerius in the year 1094, was endowed by earl Roger with the territories of Catania and Ætna, for the ſmall acknowledgement of a glaſs of wine and a loaf of bread offered once a year. It has ſuffered ſo much by earthquakes, that little of the original ſtructure remains, and the modern parts have hardly any thing, except their materials, to recom-

10. Capita jug. barb. KA—Fig. vir. ſtans columnæ inn.
11. Capita Dioſcur. Jugata—Fig. vir. ſt. col. innix.
12. Cap. Jugat. imb. laur.—2 ſpicæ KATANAIΩN.
13. Cap. Apoll. ſtell.—Mul. grad. d. fol. KATANAIΩN.
14. Cap. mul.—Mulier grad. KATANAIΩN II.
15. Cap. mul.—TANA—Ramus T.
16. Cap. Apoll.—Vict. ſtans d. ſpic. s. ramum III TANAIΩN.
17. Cap. mul. ſpic. red. EIII—Pegaſus galea. KATANAIΩN.
1 Cap. Apoll.—Tripus KATANAIΩN.

mend

mend them. The other religious edifices of the city are profuſely ornamented, but in a bad taſte. The ſpirit of building ſeems to have ſeized upon this people; and the prince of Biſcari's example adds freſh vigour. It were natural to ſuppoſe men would be backward in erecting new habitations, eſpecially with any degree of luxury, on ground ſo often ſhaken to its centre, and ſo often buried under the aſhes of a volcano; but ſuch is their attachment to their native ſoil, and their contempt of dangers they are habituated to, that they rebuild their houſes on the warm cinders of Veſuvius, the quaking plains of Calabria, and the black mountains of Sciarra at Catania; it is however ſurpriſing to ſee ſuch embelliſhments laviſhed in ſo dangerous a ſituation. There is a great deal of activity in the diſpoſition of this people; they know by tradition that their anceſtors carried on a flouriſhing commerce; and, that, before the fiery river filled it up, they had a ſpacious convenient harbour, where they

now have ſcarcely a creek for a felucca; they therefore wiſh to reſtore thoſe advantages to Catania, and have often applied to government for aſſiſtance towards forming a mole and port; an undertaking their ſtrength alone is unequal to: but, whether the refuſal originates in the deficiencies of the public treaſury, or the jealouſy of other cities, all their projects have ended in fruitleſs applications.

The number of inhabitants dwelling in Catania amounts to thirty thouſand; the Catanians make it double.—A conſiderable portion of this number appertains to the univerſity, the only one in the iſland, and the nurſery of all the lawyers.

I ſpent many hours in contemplating the greateſt curioſity in Catania; for ſuch I eſteem the villa Sciarra, belonging to the prince of Biſcari. Some years ago he incloſed a large tract of the lava, which iſſued from Ætna in 1669, ſurrounded the old fortreſs where the Arragonian kings were wont to reſide, and ended its

 deſtruc-

H. Swinden del.

P. Mazell sculp.

Villa of the PRINCE *of* BISCARI, *built on the Lava of 1669.*

deſtructive courſe in the abyſſes of the ſea. Upon this black impenetrable ſurface the prince laid the plan of a garden, built houſes, carried an excellent coach road round, planted trees in earth brought thither from other places, and, what ſeems almoſt incomprehenſible, formed two large ponds of freſh water, ſupplied by ſprings that ouze through the lava. I do not know whether theſe waters are connected with the very ſingular brook called Giudicello, the Amenanus of the ancients. It paſſes through Catania; but has been known to ceaſe flowing, at leaſt above ground, for ſeveral years, and then ſuddenly burſt out and continue a conſtant ſtream for a long ſpace of time: this intermiſſion proves that its exiſtence depends entirely upon the difference of vent given to the maſs of waters that occupy part of the cavities in the bowels of Ætna. If theſe reſervoirs have, by any aqueous eruptions, or other means unknown to us, fallen to ſo low a level as no longer to reach the height at which they were wont

wont to diſcharge their overplus by the Giudicello; this ſtream muſt neceſſarily fail till a freſh accumulation of melted ſnow cauſes a regular overflow of theſe ſubterraneous lakes.

The pools of the villa are ſtocked with fiſh and water-fowl, and are preſerved from the fury of the neighbouring ſea by a ſtrong pier, the only ſeparation between the ſalt and freſh water; the ſea is extremely tempeſtuous when the Scirocco or Levante winds blow, and then its waves daſh over the mole, and give the waters a brackiſh taint; but it does not ſeem to affect the fiſh. The creator of this moſt extraordinary improvement viſits it every day, as the ſource of health and innocent recreation; and every day ſome new idea riſes in his mind, which he is eager to realize for its embelliſhment.

My evenings were very agreeably ſpent in a ſmall party in the prince's houſe, where a variety of improving converſation beguiled the hours.

hours. Some nights we adjourned to an opera in the prince's theatre, which he lends to the city, till the public one be finiſhed. The female part of the audience appeared to me to have clearer complexions than is uſual in Sicily; it may perhaps ariſe from the prevalence of inoculation in this city, the firſt that ventured the experiment; which has now been practiſed many years with ſucceſs; Calatagerone was the ſecond town that adopted the method. It is ſtrange that no accounts of the long-experienced good effects of inoculation ſhould yet have reached the neighbouring coaſts of Italy, where they look upon it with ſuperſtitious horror.

SECTION

SECTION LIII.

ON the 27th of January I took my leave of this charming family. The canon Recupero diſſuaded me from attempting to reach the top of Ætna; for he was certain that the ſnow would render it impracticable; he obſerved, that I ſhould enjoy full as fine a proſpect half way up the mountain as from the ſummit, by moving in a horizontal direction and alternately taking in views towards different points of the compaſs; that the land would be equally ſeen in its whole extent; and all that I ſhould loſe would be a greater command of the ſea; and that I might form a tolerable idea of the crater of Ætna from that of Veſuvius, with which I was well acquainted. I paid a juſt deference to his opinion, and left Catania a little before day-break. The rays of the riſing ſun ſtruck the top of the mountain ſeven minutes and thirty ſeconds before they ſhone on Catania.

The

The immediate environs of the town are extremely pleaſant; but notwithſtanding the lively appearance of the fruit-trees in bloſſom, which made the country look as if it were powdered, the number and extent of the beds of lava are ſo great, that I ſoon found the landſcape exceſſively gloomy and diſagreeable. I rode through many ſmall hamlets, and continued in a very gradual aſcent to a place called Tre-Caſtagne, in the region of the Montagnuole, from which formidable rivers of flaming matter have iſſued; as there is ſeldom, if ever, more than one eruption from each, for they are only accidental vents in the flanks of the mountain, theſe hillocks are ſoon covered with wood, and often planted with vines. Many of the ſciarras we traverſed were however ſtill in their frightful primitive ſtate, exactly the ſame in appearance as when they firſt began to cool; thoſe of 1763 were quite freſh. The matter that iſſues from Ætna is of a much harder nature than the common lavas of Veſuvius, takes more time to grow cold,

cold, and is more tardy in admitting vegetation to gain a footing upon it; the torrent of 1669 was eight years before its heat ceaſed to be perceptible, and at this hour has not a blade of graſs or fibre of moſs on its whole ſurface; whereas the lava that ſtreamed down to Torre del Greco, not twenty years ago, is covered in many places with lichen.

We now began to leave the cultivated, and to enter into the woody region; at firſt ſtraggling trees and patches of ſhrubs marked the ſkirts of a foreſt, and tillage-land grew gradually more and more ſcarce; ſoon after large waſtes opened on each ſide with ſcattered thickets, and here and there a piece of vineyard, which ſome induſtrious peaſant has ventured to plant higher up than the reſt. I found no difference of heat or cold in this journey; but it may be very ſenſible in ſummer. I had long before ſpoilt my thermometer and barometer in our adventurous paſſage of the Platani, and could find none to purchaſe in any of the towns

I paſſed

I paſſed through. The timber is common oak and cheſnut; but in theſe parts I ſaw no handſome trees; for the country people draw their ſupply of fuel from hence for all the villages and cottages below, and lop the trees in a moſt ſlovenly manner.

The coagulated torrents we croſſed, and the roughneſs of the road, now became exceedingly fatiguing, and obliged me to halt and take ſome refreſhment. I fixed upon a bare knoll for that purpoſe, on the ſouth-eaſt ſide of the mountain, about eighteen miles above Catania. It is not eaſy to draw a line between the different regions; for the fertile country at the foot is interſperſed with waſte land and wood; and for ſome time after I had aſcended above the line of habitation, I found vineyards planted in the open parts of the foreſt, but no corn any where. The ſummit of Ætna exhibited a very different ſhape from that which it had worn ſince I firſt ſaw it from Niſcemi: it was no longer the regular tapering cone, but an immenſe ridge almoſt

level, having a round eminence at each extremity, and about the middle a forked hill riſing higher than the reſt, and ſurrounding the crater from which the ſmoke aſcends; this part alone was of a dark colour; one ſheet of ſnow covered all the remainder: at the foot of this ſtupendous ridge lie gloomy vallies of prodigious depth, ſeparated from each other by ſnowy mountains, before which moſt beautiful woods form a mighty girdle round the frozen region; the bold ſweeps, and the variety of riſings and falls in this woody view, brought to my mind ſome romantic ſcenes in old Engliſh parks, though the ſcale upon which the fineſt woodlands in England are laid out, is a mere point when compared with the plan of nature in theſe gigantic foreſts. If my eye was checked in its ſcope on this ſide, though by objects of ſuch magnitude, it was at liberty to range unconfined on the ſouthern and eaſtern aſpect; there it had a world to wander over. The vale

of

of Noto and great part of that of Demona, were open to my view, with a large tract of Calabria and an immenſe expanſe of ſea. Without the aſſiſtance of my glaſs, I traced the route I had purſued in croſſing from the coaſt of Girgenti to Catania, which roſe beautifully at my feet with all its cupolas and roofs now finely illuminated by the ſun; not a cloud was to be ſeen throughout the vault of heaven, and every object was rendered, by the clearneſs of the medium, apparently nearer and moſt ſurpriſingly diſtinct. I could follow the courſe of many broad ſtreams of lava, from their ſource in the tumulus or montagnuola where the opening was made in the mountain's ſide, to the end of their career in the ſea, or ſooner in the plains round Catania. That of 1669 draws a moſt tremendous duſky line through the cultivated country; others of a greyer caſt mark an irruption of a remoter date, and ſome almoſt obliterated by the progreſs of vegetation, but ſtill faintly differing in colour from the fields, claim an origin

removed perhaps beyond the reach of hiſtory. From Homer's ſilence with regard to the phænomena of Ætna, it is to be preſumed that the volcano had been many ages in a ſtate of inactivity, and that no tradition of its burning remained among the inhabitants at the time he compoſed his Odyſſey; perhaps it never had emitted flames ſince the country was peopled.

The firſt eruption taken notice of by ancient, but by no means contemporary authors, happened before the Greeks landed on the iſland, and is ſuppoſed to have ſcared the Sicani from the eaſt part of Sicily. M. de Buffon aſſerts Ætna to be a primitive mountain; that is, a protuberance exiſting as ſuch from the creation; in which aſſertion he has little aſſiſtance from analogy, probability, or experience, to ſupport him: but I leave to abler pens the taſk of proving Ætna to be, like other inſulated mountains, the gradual production of fiery operations. He ſuppoſes the mountain to have vomited flames ſoon after the creation; but on the ſubſiding of

of the waters which covered the face of the earth, to have ceaſed burning, becauſe a ſufficient quantity of moiſture became wanting to produce an efferveſcence with its mineral contents. After a long lapſe of ages, the Streights of Gibraltar were burſt open, and the ocean mixed with the Mediterranean ſea; while by a ſimilar event the Boſphorus of Thrace was broken, and the waters of the great lakes let into the Archipelago. Water being thus again brought to the foot of Ætna, the mountain began to ſend forth flames anew, which, at different intervals, and with various degrees of force, it has continued to do down to the preſent time: this ſyſtem is ingenious, and, for aught we can diſcover in ſuch a labyrinth of ſuppoſitions, may be truth; but I cannot agree to his hypotheſis, that the ſea of Sicily has ſunk of late years, and therefore that Ætna has abated much of its vigour. I never could diſcover any traces of this retreat of the ſalt waters, but many of their encroachments; and I ap-

prehend he will find it difficult to perſuade the Catanians that the mountain has loſt any of its powers, as long as they behold the lavas of 1669, and thoſe of many ſubſequent, though leſs deſtructive, conflagrations.

Pindar is the oldeſt writer extant who ſpeaks of Ætna as a volcano. The firſt recorded eruption was in the time of Pythagoras; Plato was invited by the younger Dionyſius to examine the ſtate of the mountain after the ſixth.

It threw up flames and lava near an hundred times between that period and the battle of Pharſalia; it was particularly furious while Sextus Pompeius was adding the horrors of war to its devaſtations. Charlemagne happened to be at Catania during one of the eruptions, and from his reign the chronicles mention fifteen down to that of the year 1669, the moſt horrible of them all. The lava burſt forth at a place called Ricini, and ran in a ſtream fifty feet deep, and four miles broad, deſtroying all before it; it overwhelmed great part of Catania, and drove back

back the ſea a conſiderable way from the ſhore. The progreſs of this Stygian river was at firſt at the rate of ſeven miles in one day, but afterwards it took four days to travel fifteen: The crater fell in, and its aperture was found to be increaſed from three to five miles in circumference *. Since that epocha, there have been ſeven

* Ætna has never been meaſured with geometrical accuracy; the following meaſures are given by different authors:

Height above the ſurface of the ſea, 10,036 feet.

180 miles circumference at the baſe.—Faujas de S. Fon in his Volcans du Vivarais.

Height 12000 feet.—Brydone. Tour to Sicily.

Height 2500 toiſes. La Platrière, ſaid as from Recupero.

Height 1950 toiſes. Diameter 30 miles.—Mentelle Geogr. comp.

Others make its height only 2000 toiſes, and its ſuperfices 300 ſquare miles.

It is divided into three circles or zones; the largeſt and loweſt of which is called Piemonteſe, and occupies a breadth of eighteen miles of rich cultivation: The ſecond (Nemoroſa) aſcends ſix miles above it; the lower part of the

ſeven eruptions, but none of very dreadful conſequences.

I left the horſes at the place of halting, and under the guidance of a peaſant walked into the woods in ſearch of plants and foſſil curioſities, but met with no ſucceſs, for the beſt ſpecimens of volcanical ſubſtances lie more towards the ſouth, and the ſeaſon was not far enough advanced for vegetable rarities; beſides, the trees of theſe foreſts grow too cloſe together to ſuffer ſhrubs or flowers to thrive under them. While I was wandering through theſe awful ſhades, the ſervants were employed in ſeeking a proper place for our night's lodgings, and about an hour before ſunſet met me at an appointed rendezvous; they conducted me to a kind of farmhouſe about a mile lower down the mountain; the owners gave us all the aſſiſtance in their

third (Netta or Scoperta) is covered with ſnow in winter only, but perpetual ſnows lie on the upper half of this ſterile region, which meaſures two leagues in breadth, and terminates in the ſummit of the mountain.

power towards our arrangement, and after ſupper entertained us with many wonderful ſtories about the devils and hobgoblins that inhabit the caves of Ætna. My ſoldier and muletiers were not behind-hand in ſtrange tales, and the Neapolitan with his Veſuvius made no ſmall impreſſion upon the minds of his audience. As every narrator endeavoured to render his ſtory more frightful and diabolical than the preceding one, I could perceive that the whole circle was worked up to ſuch a ridiculous pitch of diſmay that a ſudden rap at the door would have frightened them out of their wits. The exceſſive irritability of nerves in the Sicilians, heightened by prejudices and ſuperſtitions, that pervade the whole ſyſtem of what is called education among them, gives them a facility of affection either for joy, grief, hope, or fear, beyond any nation I ever had an opportunity of knowing. Boccone devotes one of his treatiſes on natural hiſtory to the *ſcanto*, or *ſpavento*, that is, a ſudden impreſſion of horror upon the mind and

body. The wild ideas the vulgar part of the inhabitants have imbibed on this head are almoſt incredible, and the dread they have of a ſudden ſhock is no leſs ſurpriſing. There is ſcarcely a ſymptom, diſorder, or accident they do not think may befal the human frame in conſequence of the *ſcanto*. They are purſuaded that a man who has been frightened only by a dog, a viper, an antipathy to, will ſoon be ſeized with the ſame pains he would really feel, had he been ſcorpion, or any other creature, which he has torn with their teeth or wounded with their venomous ſting, and that nothing can remove theſe nervous imaginary pangs but a ſtrong doſe of *dilena*, a ſpecies of cantharides found in Sicily.

SECTION

SECTION LIV.

THE firſt gleam of light through the windows rouſed us all; the morning was clear, and gave aſſurances of ſo fine a day, that I was determined to penetrate into the woods, and climb as high as the ſnow would allow me. The peaſant, who had accompanied me the preceding day, offered his ſervices, but warned me not to expect any great progreſs on that ſide of the mountain, as the vallies were deep, and the precipices tremendous. Having again agreed upon a place of meeting with the ſervants, and enjoined them to keep a great fire burning, that we might be guided by the ſmoke, I ſet out for the heart of the foreſt. We travelled two hours through groves of trees of ſurpriſing ſize and height, the ſoil beneath a ſhivery ſtone covered with moſs, and here and there a bare ledge of lava appearing above ground. In the open

open places the graſs was very fine and ſhort; it is remarkable for fattening ſheep, but often ſurfeits them with its ſuperabundance of rich juices; the remedy for this diſorder is to draw blood from the animal's ear. The paſtures of Ætna are divided into nine diſtricts, that the different proprietors of flocks may not interfere with each other.

Near the entrance of the wood, cheſnut and oak trees are intermixed, afterwards oak alone is to be ſeen; ſome of them of a prodigious ſize; the largeſt I meaſured was twenty-eight feet in circumference. As we approached the inner verge of the woody region, the oaks diminiſhed in bulk and number, and were ſucceeded by the *tæda* pine; but I ſaw none among theſe of any large dimenſions, or proper for naval purpoſes. The guide told me it was cuſtomary to tap them, and that they yielded a very fine turpentine of ſpecial efficacy in healing wounds. He ſaid there was a variety of wild animals and birds upon the mountain, but not

ſo

ſo many as there were when people were leſs expert at the uſe of the gun. He reckoned many ſorts of both, among which I recollect wild boars, badgers, wild goats, deer, martens, hares, rabbits, partridges, eagles, and falcons; he had never heard of any bears being ſeen there; and I found he did not know the difference between the ſtag and the fallow deer *.

We now began to find ſnow among the fallen leaves, and the wood thinner; the trees more ſtunted, moſſy, and bare of boughs; the ſtones looſer, and the ground leſs over-grown with vegetable productions. Having with great fatigue croſſed a wide hollow, and climbed up an acclivity between two rocky cliffs, with a few trees to enliven the dreary ſcene, we arrived at

* I have ſince been informed that neither bears nor ſtags exiſt on the iſland.

Anaxilas, tyrant of Reggium, brought hares into Sicily, and as the people of Meſſina were the firſt he favoured with the breed, they commemorated the preſent by repreſenting that animal upon their coins.

the

the ſummit of a chain of hills; from hence we looked down upon a deep and frightful valley; its ſurface was compleatly ſmoothed over with ſnow, which appeared to be deep and dangerous. My guide ſtopped ſhort, and pronounced all farther progreſs impracticable, as certain rocks he was acquainted with were hidden beneath the ſnow. I therefore gave up all thoughts of proceeding, and contented myſelf with a diſtant ſurvey of the awful ſcenes I had not the power of viſiting. On my return through the woods, I ſometimes caught a glimpſe of the pillar of ſmoke that roſe from the place of rendezvous, and ſteered my courſe accordingly.

I now deſcended the mountain to the fields that ſurrounded the celebrated cheſnut-tree, called from its aſtoniſhing ſize *Caſtagno di cento cavalli*, as ſuppoſing it capable of ſheltering an hundred horſe under the canopy of its boughs. It ſtands ſingle on a gentle riſing, the ground round it is an open paſture bounded by woods and vineyards; the height of it has been much diminiſhed

Castagno di Cento Cavalli on Mount Etna seen from the East.

— Summit of the Volcano.

diminiſhed of late years by the tops of the branches being lopped to increaſe its fruitfulneſs; the boughs yet meet at a very conſiderable elevation from the ground. When I firſt ſaw this tree, I concluded myſelf impoſed upon by the deſcriptions of preceding travellers; and was convinced that the original tree had been cut down, and the preſent group formed by new ſhoots ſprung out of the old root; but upon a cloſer examination I changed my opinion. This wonderful production of the vegetable kingdom conſiſts of a trunk, now ſplit to the ſurface of the earth, but, as I found by digging all round, united in one body at a very ſmall depth below; of this trunk five diviſions are formed, each of which ſends forth enormous branches. The exterior ſurface of theſe diviſions are covered with bark, none has yet grown on their inſide, and they all turn towards a common centre. The interſtices are of different extents; one is wide enough for two coaches to drive abreaſt.—In the middle is a hut covered with tiles,

tiles, where the fruit of the tree is depoſited. Our whole caravan, men and animals, were at our eaſe in this extraordinary incloſure; and, while the horſes eat their oats, we ſpread our cloaks on the ground, and dined in two ſets, without interfering with each other. This will not appear incredible, when I aſſure my readers, that, after three meaſurements taken with the utmoſt nicety and attention, I found the circumference of this mighty tree to be, at one inch above the ground, one hundred and ninety-ſix Engliſh feet on the outſide. As the line was drawn ſtraight acroſs the vacancies, the real ſize of the circle ought to be computed ſtill higher *.

* Reideſel ſays it meaſured 204 palms (about 176 feet). He probably held his meaſuring line farther from the ground than I did. Mentelle gives it 149 French feet, or near 160 Engliſh. The author of "Voyages en différens Pays de l'Europe," who perhaps took his intelligence from Reideſel, and by miſtake put feet for palms, gives it 204 feet circumference.

Within

Within ſight of this cheſnut-tree, which formerly belonged to St. Agatha, but has lately been declared the property of the crown, grow ſeveral trees of the ſame ſpecies, perhaps ſtill more worthy of admiration, as their trunk is yet intire. I took the dimenſions of the largeſt at the height of three feet; it is fifty-ſeven feet round, with a ſtraight bole free from crack or flaw, and clear of branches to the height of fifteen feet; I never beheld ſo beautiful and flouriſhing a tree. After theſe giants of vegetation all other trees appeared pigmies, and I paſſed them unnoticed. The decline of the day now warned me of the neceſſity of quitting Ætna and continuing my journey.

We travelled down the eaſtern declivity of the mountain, through a tract of well-wooded, and well-cultivated hills. The way was no other than the bed of a torrent, rough and ſtony. I was ſo accuſtomed to bad roads, and ſo confident of the ſteady foot of my mule, that I felt no apprehenſions from this rapid deſcent; this animal

animal did not make the leaſt falſe ſtep, or by any ſudden motion once call off my attention from the enchanting ſcenes around me. My heart was dilated with pleaſure as I beheld the gay cloathing with which the roſy-coloured bloſſoms covered the yet leafleſs almond-trees, and the golden glow with which the ſetting ſun tinged every object. The firſt village we arrived at is placed on the brink of an immenſe bed of ſtones, which is at preſent dry, but bears the marks of a mighty ſtream having heretofore taken its courſe this way. The great breadth of this channel ſurpriſed me, for I ſaw no reaſon from its depth to think it a natural reſervoir, or paſſage for the melted ſnow in the ſpring, which could not be ſuppoſed to form ſo great a body of water as was neceſſary to fill it. The curate of the village informed me, that it was occaſioned by a moſt aſtoniſhing volume of hot water, which in the year 1753 had forced its way through the ſides of the mountain, about two hundred years above, ruſhing down to the ſea

ſea with incredible velocity and irreſiſtible violence, bearing away all houſes, trees, and other obſtacles to its furious courſe, and leaving nothing but burnt ſtones and rubbiſh, where it had found fine orchards and a rich vegetative ſoil.

At the cloſe of day, we reached an inn at Li Giarri, a large village not far from the ſea ſide.

SECTION LV.

I CONTINUED my route due north through a plain, where the ſoil is a mixture of ſandy mould and black aſhes, and greatly inferior in goodneſs to the land that lies on the ſlope of the mountain. This morning's ride between Ætna and the ſea was enchanting. The Fiume freddo croſſes the road, a clear rapid ſtream, cold as ice; its bottom covered with graſs, and abounding in fiſh.

We ſoon after paſſed the tower of Schiſo *, which ſtands upon the ſite of the ancient city of Naxus, the firſt colony the Greeks ſettled in the iſland. Dionyſius the elder deſtroyed the town, but permitted the inhabitants that had ſurvived the calamity to make a new eſtabliſhment on the neighbouring point of Mount Taurus.

It is remarkable that the foundations of this old town were laid upon a bed of lava, which iſſuing out of the north-eaſt ſide of Ætna ran a great way into the ſea, and formed a long narrow peninſula. How great muſt be the ſpace of time elapſed between the æra of that eruption

* Numi Naxiorum.

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. barbatum hederâ coronat.—Silenus humi ſed. d. vas. NAXION.

2. Cap. barb. pampinis coron.—Racemus. NAXI.

3. Cap. mulieb. laur. folium. NAΞIΩN.—Silenus humi ſed. d. diotam. s. thyrſum. Ara cum ſtatua. folium.

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. barb. & orn. pamp—Diota NAΞIΩN.

2. Cap. imb. hed. coron. Diota NAΞI thyrſus.

and

and the preſent age, ſince Naxus was founded ſeven hundred years before the birth of Chriſt; and the congealed torrent muſt have loſt much of its forbidding appearance before that time, or elſe a ſet of ſtrangers would never have thought of erecting their habitations upon it! It is therefore reaſonable to ſuppoſe that whole ages had intervened, and conſequently that this is the oldeſt known bed of volcanical matter on the ſurface of the earth, though many have been cut through in digging wells, that may be of a prior date, covered by ſucceſſive layers of decompoſed vegetables and new torrents of ſciarra. The maſs of lava, on which Naxus ſtood, has not been overwhelmed in the ſame manner, becauſe Ætna for a long courſe of ages has ceaſed to direct its fiery ſtreams towards the country that lies on the northern and eaſtern aſpects.

This point forms, with the extremity of Mount Taurus, a moſt beautiful bay, into which the river Cantara empties itſelf; it flows at the

utmoſt ſkirt of Ætna, and of volcanic ſoil; for directly on its northern bank a chain of lofty broken mountains, compoſed of marble and various ſorts of calcareous ſtones, riſes as a barrier againſt the encroachments of ignited ſubſtances.

The aſcent to Taormina is extremely ſteep and rugged. It is a poor town built on a narrow level above a precipice, and overhung by immenſe maſſes of rock, where the village of Mola ſtands, in one of the boldeſt ſituations imaginable. Taormina contains three thouſand inhabitants.

The ancient Tauromenium was much more extenſive than the preſent town, and comprehended within its walls the brow of the promontory of St. Andrew, where a theatre was placed between two high rocks, commanding a full view both of Ætna and of the plains. A conſiderable portion of this building has eſcaped the ravages of time, and affords the antiquary as well as the architect a rare opportunity of examining that diviſion of a theatre, on which the

actors ſtood; a part wanting in almoſt all other ruinated theatres. The arcades are all compoſed of brick, the reſt of the walls of pebbles, and covered with marble caſings; none of the ſeats exiſt in perfect preſervation, though many rows of them were cut out of the live rock; time has conſumed even the rock. The whole range of the vomitoria and galleries that encircled the ſeats is yet ſtanding as high from the ground as the bottom of the ſecond order; the proſcenium which formed the chord of the arch is almoſt entire; it is a thick wall, with a large opening in the centre, and three niches; a ſmall door, and a fourth niche on each ſide; between each of theſe apertures, or receſſes, are marks in the wall, where columns were placed. The magiſtrates of Taormina, who cauſed ſome reparations to be made, fixed a few fragments of ſhafts before this ſcreen, upon a narrow terrace that ſupported the floor of the ſtage. While the columns were entire in their

proper places, the niches filled with ſtatues, and the marble caſing was yet upon the brick wall, there ſcarcely remained ſpace enough for even one perſon to walk along, much leſs for a company of actors to perform a drama; yet, ſome obſervers have imagined that this ſmall extent conſtituted the whole of the ſtage: it appears perfectly clear to me that this ſcreen was a permanent decoration of architecture, which ſerved on all occaſions as ſcenery, and that the place where the comedians exhibited their performances, was a wooden ſtage ſloping forwards to a tranſverſal wall, now almoſt ruined to the ground, but ſtill ſufficient to mark its deſtination: under the intermediate ſpace were vaults and partitions. According to this plan, the ſtage becomes a parallelogram of one hundred and thirty-eight feet by fifty-eight. On each ſide is a lofty ſquare building, advancing as far as the laſt-mentioned wall; it conſiſts of a baſement, and two upper ſtories, from the higheſt

higheſt of which a communicating gallery was carried along the back ſcreen; the diameter of the ſemicircular part of the theatre, where the audience ſat, is 142 Engliſh feet *.

† This ruin has an admirable effect, and, when entire, muſt have been one of the moſt noble

* Further particulars may be found in D'Orville, Reideſel, and other authors.

† A duke of St. Stephano carried off all the ſtatues and ornaments of the theatre, but the magiſtrates of Taormina, finding this monument admired by foreigners, have beſtowed occaſional repairs upon it, and replaced ſome fragments of the columns; they are of white marble, and of the Corinthian order. By the turn of their foliage and other members, I take them to have been erected about the time of Domitian.

Nummi Tauromenitani.

Ex Auro.

1. Cap. imb. laur. pileus.—Tripus TAYPOMENITAN.

Ex Argento.

1. Bovis facies—Racemus TAYPOM.

noble buildings in Sicily. The wall of the city ran in a horizontal line under the brow of the hill behind the theatre, and without were placed the ſepulchres of the citizens.—Some remain in ruin, others are converted into dwelling-houſes;

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. Apollinis Archagetæ—Minotaurus TAYPOMENITAN.
2. Idem cap.—Racemus TAYPOMENITAN.
3. Id. cap.—Lyra TAYPOMENITAN.
4. Id. cap.—Tripus TAYPOMENITAN.
5. Cap. Bacchi—Diana s. lanc. ten. canis TAYPOMENITAN.
6. Cap. Jovis—Aquila fulm. inf. III. TAYPOMENITAN.
7. Cap. Pall.—noctua TAYPOMEN.
8. Cap. mul.—Mul. ſt. s. bacul. TAYPO.
9. Cap. Apoll. TAYPO—Tripus ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝΟ.
10. Cap. Apoll.—Taurus TAYPOMENITAN.
11. Cap. mul. caniſtro coron.—Minot. ſtella.
12. Cap. imb. noctua—Taurus TAYPOMENITAN.
13. Cap. imb. vir.—Minotaurus.
14. Cap. Apoll. Archagetæ—Taurus cornupet. TAYPOMENITAN.

and

and one of theſe *columbaria* is actually uſed as a dove-cote. On the declivity above the town are ſeveral ancient reſervoirs, arched and plaiſtered; the beſt preſerved one is divided by a row of maſſive pillars into two rooms, lighted by ſemi-circular windows near the cieling.

The aſcent to Taormina was very ſteep and difficult, but I found the deſcent on the other ſide ſtill more precipitate and perilous. The charms of the landſcape amply repaid my labours. Were I to name a place that poſſeſſes every grand and beauteous qualification for the forming of a picture; a place on which I ſhould wiſh to employ the powers of a Salvator or a Pouſſin; Taormina ſhould be the object of my choice.—Every thing belonging to it is drawn in a large ſublime ſtyle; the mountains tower to the very clouds, the caſtles and ruins riſe on mighty maſſes of perpendicular rock, and ſeem to defy the attacks of mortal enemies; Ætna with all its ſnowy and woody ſweeps fills half the horizon;

rizon; the ſea is ſtretched out upon an immenſe ſcale, and occupies the remainder of the proſpect. I regretted much not having it in my power conveniently to ſpend ſome days on this delightful ſpot.

We travelled many miles along the beach, which is extremely confined by high cliffs. They are calcareous and generally of a ſpecies of red and white marble, which was in great eſteem among the ancients. The houſes in the villages on the ſhore are built with alternate courſes of brick and ſtone, a method very frequently practiſed by the Greeks and Romans. The torrents were all dry; but their ſtony beds, and the wide extent which the rubbleſtones cover, ſhew how furious their courſe muſt be after heavy rains. I accounted it a very fortunate circumſtance in my tour through Sicily, that out of the great number of rivers and mountain ſtreams I was under the neceſſity of paſſing, only two were ſo ſwoln with floods as to cauſe any delay in my journey, though from the ſeaſon

of

of the year I had reaſon to expect that ſort of inconvenience more frequently.

I ſtopped at Fiume di Niſi, and early next morning entered the city of Meſſina, through a range of gardens and ſuburbs, which preſented a very novel ſcene, after a long coaſting ride.

MESSINA.

SECTION LVI.

AS I entered Meſſina on the land ſide, I felt none of thoſe ſenſations of ſurprize and delight, with which travellers declare themſelves in a manner overcome on a firſt view from the ſea; my admiration roſe gently and gradually as my walks led me to a view of the different beauties of its ſituation; for, in my way to the inn, nothing occurred to give me a very high opinion of the city; narrow ſtreets, gloomy houſes, little buſtle of trade, and ſtill leſs ſhew of luxury.

A large

A large chain of mountains preſſes upon the ſhore, and part of the city ſtands upon elevated ground.—The mountains are many of them nobly wooded; the hills before them finely chequered with groves and fields. As the town runs in a ſweep along the edge of a declivity, every building of conſequence is ſeen to advantage, while the leſs noble parts are hidden by the *Palazzata*. This is a regular ornamental range of lofty houſes, with nineteen gates, anſwering to as many ſtreets; it follows the ſemicircular bend of the port for one mile and five poles, and would have been the handſomeſt line of buildings in Europe, had the deſign been completed; but a conſiderable part of the extent is not finiſhed, except merely in the front wall, and that ſeems to be in a very ruinous condition. Philibert Emmanuel of Savoy, viceroy of Sicily in 1622, began this princely work. Before it is a broad quay, decorated with ſtatues and fountains; ſhips of any burden can moor cloſe to the parapet, in great depth of water. At

the

the weſt extremity is a ſmall fort and a gate; the other end is cloſed by the governor's houſe and the citadel, a modern pentagonal fortreſs, built on the point where the iſthmus or *bracchio di San Raniero* iſſues from the main land. On this ſlip of low ground, which, with the *Palazzata*, forms the circular harbour of Meſſina, one of the fineſt in the world, are placed the light-houſe, *lazaretto*, and, on the point, the old caſtle of St. Salvatore. The circumference of the port is four miles; it probably owes its formation to an earthquake, which opened an immenſe chaſm, and then filled it with water. The depth is ſo great, and the ſhore ſo abrupt, that a few weeks before my arrival at Meſſina, an Engliſh ſhip, by ſhifting her ballaſt, as ſhe was hauling up to be careened, ſank in ſeventy fathom water cloſe by Salvatore. The Chroniclers ſay, that the duke of Puglia and his Normans landed firſt on an iſland before Meſſina, and that he vowed to build a church there in honour of San Salvatore if he ſucceeded in his enterprize.

enterprize.—From this expreſſion, one would imagine that the bracchio was not then connected with the iſland of Sicily.

Near the light-houſe is a kind of whirlpool in the ſea, ſhewn as the Charybdis of the ancients. I ſaw nothing in it more than a rippling occaſioned by the meeting of the tide and currents. The bottom of the Streights is ſhallow, and full of rocks; conſequently, numberleſs points and cavities muſt occur to obſtruct and perplex the regular courſe of the current, and cauſe whirlpools that are dangerous in ſtormy weather; or even in dead calms, when veſſels may be embayed and drawn among the ſhallows from which they want wind to extricate themſelves. I take it for granted that the ſea has worn itſelf a paſſage through the Faro much more eaſy and expanded than it was when Homer compoſed his Odyſſey, which perhaps was not many centuries after the waves had burſt through the connecting Iſthmus between Sicily and the coaſt of Reggio. Then Scylla might indeed be a

tremendous

tremendous rock, and the hollows under the ſea, where the waters yet foaming, and agitated by the reſiſtance they had met with at Scylla, were hurried and whirled about, muſt have been an irreſiſtible vortex, from which no ſhip could eſcape. The alternate action of ſwallowing up and revomiting the wreck, was ſimilar to that of a pool at the foot of any lofty caſcade: logs of wood that are ſwept over a precipice by the violence of a mountain torrent are thus abſorbed, and thrown up again. Ulyſſes might ſtick to his fig-tree till the maſt roſe again from the deep, and catch it as it emerged with the return of the tide, though the poet has extended the time of his hanging beyond all bounds of probability. I think it is clear from Homer's deſcription, that Charybdis was almoſt oppoſite Scylla, and ſeveral miles north of the place where Meſſina now ſtands. No ſpot anſwers it ſo well as the Pantano grande, a large pool now ſurrounded with ſand on the iſthmus of cape Peloro, but ſtill communicating with the

the ſea by ſome ſubterraneous conduit, as its waters are ſalt, and ebb and flow regularly with thoſe of the Streights: it is full of purpuræ, and other ſea ſhell-fiſh. Before the ſands were caſt up by ſome commotion of the earth ſo as to incloſe this pond, it was probably the bottom of a ſmall bay, reſembling the end of a net, into which veſſels that had the fortune to ſteer clear of Scylla were hurried by the rapidity of the currents. They ſtill reign at the entrance of the Faro, but are certainly leſs violent than they were when the paſſage was more confined. A tide is very perceptible at all times; but it has been obſerved to be uncommonly ſtrong between the full moon of December and the new moon of January. The ſea is then ſo diſturbed with the ſtruggles and contrary motions of its tides and currents, as to produce innumerable whirlpools, that render the navigation of the Streights exceſſively perilous: fiſhermen are afraid at that time to venture to ſea, or to attempt ſpreading a net: the ſame effects in a leſs degree are

felt at the ſummer ſolſtice. The agitation of this narrow ſea is alſo very great during the time of the Equinoxes; but there are two ſeaſons of the year, viz. the end of February, or beginning of March, and the latter part of September, or the firſt weeks in October, when there is ſcarce any tide to be diſcerned; a general calm and ſmoothneſs reigns upon the ſurface of the waters; objects are reflected upon it as clearly as in a mirror; and every danger of vortexes and currents diſappears.

The inner part of Meſſina is dirty, though it contains a conſiderable number of neat churches, and large ſubſtantial dwellings. The cathedral is Gothic, enriched with Saracenic moſaics on the altars and ſhrines; the front of the high altar is particularly ſplendid; Gagini has embelliſhed the pulpit and ſome tombs with excellent ſpecimens of his art. As this was not the epiſcopal church on the firſt revival of that dignity by Earl Roger, I preſume the buildings were raiſed under his ſon or grandſon, either entirely from

from the ground, or upon the foundation and remains of ſome ancient edifice. Among the tombs of ſeveral illuſtrious perſonages, is that of king Alphonſus the Second, whoſe former exploits and ſtern temper of mind were far from prognoſticating the puſillanimity with which he fled from his throne, and the deſpondency that diſgraced the cloſe of his career. During the life of his father Ferdinand, he had exerted himſelf with great vigour and animoſity againſt the rebellious barons, and, therefore, lived in continual ſuſpicion of their machinations. As ſoon as the approach of the king of France, Charles the Eighth, who claimed the crown of Naples in right of the ſecond houſe of Anjou, had encouraged the diſcontented nobles openly to declare their hoſtile intentions, a panic ſtruck the ſoul of Alphonſus; he reſigned his ſceptre to Ferdinand his ſon, a youth of great expectations, and a favourite with the nation, and threw himſelf into the arms of his couſin the king of Arragon. His fears operated moſt

powerfully on his degraded mind; but the natural violence of his temper only changed its object; for in his retreat at Meſſina he became a mere penitent friar, paſſing his days in the churches, and driving away the bitter reflections that haunted him by long prayer and ſevere practices of mortification. In theſe habits he paſſed ten months after his abdication, and then died, an object of wonder and contempt, but not of pity, to his contemporaries.

In the treaſury of this church is preſerved the palladium of Meſſina, a letter from the Virgin Mary to its citizens *.

This

* The ſtory is as follows: After Saint Paul had made ſome ſtay at Meſſina, a circumſtance of his travels unnoticed by Saint Luke, the Meſſineſe prevailed upon him to return to Jeruſalem with an embaſſy of four perſons ſent by the city to the Virgin Mary. Their excellencies were graciouſly received by her, and brought back a letter written with her own hand, in the Hebrew tongue, which Saint Paul tranſlated into Greek. By the irruption of the Saracens this invaluable treaſure was loſt, and utterly forgotten

This is the title upon which the Meſſineſe built their intenſions to pre-eminence over the whole iſland, nay, over the whole world; to its virtues and patronage they attribute every piece of good fortune, and to their own unworthineſs all ſiniſter events that have befallen them. The authenticity of this epiſtle has been ſeriouſly impugned, and of courſe vigorouſly defended by many Sicilian divines and diſputators. The writers

gotten till the year 1467, when Conſtantine Laſcaris, a refugee Greek, found a copy of it, and turning it into Latin, made it known to the citizens, and then to all the Catholic world. Its authenticity is now ſo well eſtabliſhed at Meſſina, that Regna the hiſtorian candidly acknowledges, that whoever was to confeſs even a doubt on the ſubject in that city would be treated as an infidel.

This curious epiſtle is conceived in theſe terms.

Maria Virgo Joachim filia Dei humillima Chriſti Jeſu crucifixi Mater ex tribu Judæ ſtirpe David meſſanenſibus omnibus ſalutem et Dei patris omnipotentis benedictionem. Vos omnes fide magna legatos ac nuncios perpublicum documentum ad nos miſiſſe conſtat. Filium noſtrum Dei genitum Deum et hominem eſſe fatemini et in cœlum poſt

writers of this nation are remarkable for maintaining with zeal every tradition, and pretenſion, however doubtful, that has ever been received among the inhabitants; they will not allow the ſlighteſt fault to be found with the natural or artificial productions of their country, or ſuffer Sicily to be deemed inferior to any thing but Paradiſe. I believe the judicious prince of Torremuza is the firſt Sicilian that dared to diſpute the authenticity of any inſcription or monument, which had been admitted as genuine. This tenaciouſneſs may perhaps originate in the influence of the inquiſition; for no man, how-

ſuam reſurrectionem aſcendiſſe Pauli apoſtoli electi prædicatione mediante viam veritatis agnoſcentes. Ob quod vos et ipſam civitatem benedicimus cujus perpetuam protectricem nos eſſe volumus. Anno filii noſtri XLII. Indict. I. III. Nonas Junii luna XXVII. feria V. ex Hieroſolymis.

Not to dwell upon the aſtronomical blunders in theſe dates, let it ſuffice to obſerve, that Laſcaris was not aware that Denis the Little, a Syrian monk, in the ſixth century, was the firſt who made uſe of the æra that commences at our Saviour's birth.

ever

ever certain of the falſity of an opinion, or of the forgery of a monument, will venture to ſpeak his mind, or thwart the general ſentiment in a country, where his life and property depend upon the judgment which prejudiced and, probably, ignorant men ſhall paſs upon his work; but whenever this ſword of Damocles ſhall be removed from the heads of the literati, we may expect to ſee in Sicily a moſt happy change in the ſyſtem of ſcience *.

There is another church in this city that deſerves particular notice, not ſo much on account of its architecture or ornaments, as for its being the laſt refuge of the Greek liturgy, which was once the predominant ſervice of the iſland, but gradually aboliſhed by different conquerors.

It is dedicated to the V. Mary de Grapheo, or of the Letter, which denomination may, per-

* Their Sicilian majeſties, ever eager to adopt any plan that may tend to the welfare or improvement of their ſubjects, have aboliſhed this moſt odious tribunal.

haps, have furniſhed Laſcaris with the idea of his letter. It is known at preſent by the name of la Cattolica. According to the Greek canons, the entrance of monaſtic churches was reciprocally forbidden to each ſex, and the cathedrals were the only places of worſhip where a daily ſacrifice was offered up by the biſhop and clergy, and where both men and women were preſent at the ſame time, but in different parts of the church. From this general admittance, the building acquired the title of Catholic or univerſal.

When the victorious Norman earl had completed the reduction of Sicily, he fixed the ſee of a biſhop at Traina, under whoſe juriſdiction he placed all Greek as well as Latin Chriſtians of the diſtrict: upon the ſee being removed to Meſſina, he indulged the Greeks with a ſupreme paſtor of their own by the title of Protopapa, a dignity which, with many eſſential diminutions of authority, ſubſiſts to this day.

Since the fourth Lateran council in 1225, theſe Greeks have been ſuppoſed to conform to the

the Latin rite, and as a teſt of their belief in the diſputed points between the churches, are obliged to attend divine ſervice on a particular day in the cathedral, and there to ſing certain paſſages declaratory of theſe conteſted articles. While commerce flouriſhed at Meſſina, before rebellions and the plague had reduced its population to a ſhadow of its former ſtate, the Greek ſchool here was in great repute, and boaſted of many learned men belonging to its body; but it has long been reduced to a ſtate of inſignificancy; the Greeks actually reſident at this port ſend their youth into the Levant to ſtudy, and however ignorant theſe ſcholars may return, they at leaſt bring back with them ſtrong prejudices againſt the Latin dogmas, though they may never be ſo incautious as to divulge their ſentiments. The protopapa is dreſt in a very ſumptuous manner, and performs many epiſcopal functions as far as mere ceremony goes, for he has no powers left; he is nominated by the pope, and confirmed in his dignity by the archbiſhop of Meſſina.

A ſimilar

A ſimilar inſtitution was eſtabliſhed at Reggio in Calabria by earl Roger; though extremely hoſtile to the Greeks, whom he knew to be diſaffected to his government, he found it ſound policy to treat with lenity a people that was ſtill formidable by its numbers, and to enſlave them imperceptibly under the enjoyment of their own civil and religious laws; the Greek communion has failed at Reggio from the beginning of the laſt century, and its nominal paſtor has long been a Roman prieſt.

After the introduction of the Chriſtian hierarchy, the faithful of Sicily and Magna Grecia were ſubject to the juriſdiction of the biſhop of Rome, and adhered to his communion long after the emperor Leo Iſauricus had renounced all obedience to that ſee *. It was not till the tenth century that Peter, biſhop of Otranto, in order to pleaſe the patriarch Polyeuctes, and to

* Pagi ſays, Sicily acknowledged the patriarch of Conſtantinople from that time; but other authorities prove it to be a miſtake.

obtain

obtain the dignity of metropolitan, conformed to the Greek rite, and ſet the example of ſeparation to the clergy of thoſe parts of the empire; Sicily being ſubject to the Mahometan yoke, and loſt to all connections with Rome, imitated the conduct of the Calabrians in theſe eccleſiaſtical diſputes; but earl Roger, a zealous member of the Roman church, and, through policy, a declared enemy to the Grecian emperor and his communion, reſtored the pope to full authority over Sicily as ſoon as he had perfected the conqueſt of it. He detained one third of all its lands * for the uſe of the crown, another he divided among his followers, and the laſt diviſion he gave to the church, without any claim upon the two other ſhares for tithes. But in the midſt of this exceſſive liberality to the clergy, ſome care was taken by the Sicilian law to guard againſt their encroachments, though

* I do not ſuppoſe he took *all* the lands from the old proprietors, as many Greek and Saracen families remained long after on the iſland in affluent circumſtances.

probably

probably without conſtant ſucceſs. By one regulation it was ſtipulated, that all eccleſiaſtics, who by any means ſhould acquire poſſeſſions that had been allotted to the laity, were to diſpoſe of them, by ſale or otherwiſe, within one year and a few weeks: truſts and fictitious conveyances eaſily defeated the intentions of this ſtatute. The moſt eſſential check to clerical power was given by the pope himſelf; Urban the Second, by a bull dated in the year 1098, which has been the ſubject of much controverſy, appointed earl Roger and his ſucceſſors perpetual vicars of the apoſtolic ſee, and legates in the iſland. The pontiff thus put into the hands of the Sicilian monarchs a weapon that has often been employed againſt the court of Rome, and has defended Sicily againſt many attempts towards an extention of papal authority. This legatine power is exerciſed by a tribunal called La Monarchia, which has often been attacked and anathematized. The pope entertained hopes of deſtroying this court during the precarious

ſituation of Sicily under the houſe of Savoy, and inſtigated the biſhop of Lipari to diſpute its authority, and appeal from its ſentence to him; but, contrary to expectation, Victor Amadeus defended his rights with vigour, and the plans of the court of Rome were defeated. This tribunal judges all eccleſiaſtical appeals from the ordinary, and in the firſt inſtance decides all cauſes relative to perſons exempted from the common juriſdictions, and ſubject to the pope only.

SECTION LVII.

THE firſt name of Meſſina was Zancle, which in the old language of Sicily meant a ſickle, alluding, as ſome authors ſuppoſe, to the form of the port, or, according to others, to the fertility of the country. Allured by the advantages of its ſituation, the Cumæans, a commercial

commercial and enterpriſing people, invaded the iſland and drove the Siculi from this ſettlement; they were in their turn overpowered by a band of Samian adventurers, who made way for a colony of citizens of Meſſene, and under theſe maſters it changed its name to Meſſene, or Meſſana *. Their government was of ſhort duration, for in the 289th year before Chriſt, it was deſtroyed by the Mamertines, a war-like unprincipled nation, inhabiting the ſouth part of Brutium. Theſe ſoldiers being received into Meſſina, on their return to Italy from Syracuſe, where they had ſerved as mercenaries in the army of Agathocles, took an opportunity of maſſacreing the inhabitants, and uſurping their poſſeſſions; in order to ſupport themſelves againſt the reſentment of the Sicilian powers, they implored the protection of the Romans, who, eager

* This name could not be derived from the word *Meſſi*, harveſt, as Mr. Brydone ſuppoſes, becauſe the city was called Meſſene long before a word of Latin had ever been ſpoken in Sicily.

to extend their dominion beyond the limits of Italy, and jealous of the growing power of Carthage, made no ſcruple to ſuccour theſe aſſaſſins with a conſular army. This ſtep brought on the firſt Punic war. The Mamertines reaped no other fruit from the alliance but a more honourable degree of ſlavery, for ſuch was the real nature of their connection with Rome, whatever name it might be diſguiſed under.

Meſſina was however always diſtinguiſhed by particular attentions and favours from the ſenate, and, excepting a ſhort period, during the wars of the Triumvirate, appears to have taſted all the ſweets of Roman proſperity, without partaking of the bitter draughts of adverſity. Its fate, in the ruin of the empire, was ſimilar to that of the reſt of Sicily. In 829 Meſſina fell into the hands of the Saracens, but obtained very honourable terms of capitulation; for half the city was left to the Chriſtians, where they were to be governed by their own laws, and profeſs their own religion undiſturbed. In the other

other reſided the bey of one of the five provinces into which the Arabian conquerors had divided the iſland. Notwithſtanding this indulgence, Meſſina was the firſt to caſt off the yoke in 1037, when George Maniaces landed an army of Greeks and Normans on the ſhore of the Faro; it afterwards held out againſt the whole Muſſulman force, till the feeble ſtate of a diſtracted empire ſhut out all hopes of aſſiſtance from Conſtantinople: this unfortunate city then opened its gates to the army of the caliph, and felt very ſeverely the weight of his reſentment; but it did not long groan under the yoke, for in leſs than twenty years Roger the Norman took it by ſurprize and delivered it from Mahometan oppreſſion. During the cruſado, our Richard Cœur de Lion, and Philip Auguſtus king of France, wintered here in their way to Paleſtine, a ſojourn marked by continual quarrels, conflagration and bloodſhed. The Meſſineſe were particularly tardy in entering into the national conſpiracy of 1282, but afterwards exceeded the

the reſt of the inſurgents in deeds of cruelty: this and the importance of their ſituation, ſingled them out for the firſt objects of Charles's vengeance: he inveſted their city very cloſely, and declared ſo openly his determination to refuſe all terms whatever to the beſieged, that they ſaw no hopes of ſafety but in an obſtinate defence. Their courage, perſeverance, and ſufferings were exceſſive; at length their ſtrength and reſources began to fail rapidly, and every circumſtance ſeemed to denounce their ſpeedy deſtruction, when Roger Lauria appeared off the harbour with the Arragonian fleet, forced the king to retire with precipitation acroſs the ſtreights, and, in his ſight, defeated and deſtroyed his naval armament. Robert, grandſon of Charles the Firſt, alſo made a fruitleſs attack; but in the diſturbed reign of Frederick the Third, Meſſina was delivered up to Lewis king of Naples and his conſort queen Joan, who entered it in triumph.—In a few years it returned to its former poſſeſſors. The year 1672 was

remarkable for the revolt of the Meſſineſe.—They threw off the Spaniſh yoke, and ſwore allegiance to Louis the Fourteenth king of France: they were for ſome time vigorouſly aſſiſted by the French; but before the Spaniards had gained the leaſt advantage to excite any hopes of recovering ſo valuable a poſſeſſion, Lewis found himſelf neceſſitated, from motives of political intereſt, to deſert his new ſubjects, and leave them to the mercy of their old incenſed maſters. The horror of being thus abandoned, and the chaſtiſement inflicted by Spain, broke the fierce ſpirit of the Meſſineſe; they were ſtill ſtunned with the remembrance and effects of this blow when the plague, in 1743, was introduced from the Levant, and ſwept away more than half the inhabitants. From this chain of calamities the opulence, trade, and population of Meſſina have been gradually ſinking, and, unleſs very favourable circumſtances happen, will every year fall lower. The number of its inhabitants does not now exceed 30,000.

The

The reception I had met with at Palermo diſcouraged me from preſenting any of my Neapolitan letters to the nobility of Meſſina, and after ſeeing the churches and other places of note, I prepared for my return to Naples. I accordingly agreed for my paſſage with a Provençal, captain of the only ſhip then in the harbour bound up the Mediterranean; I paid him a high price on condition he left the port the next morning, or with the firſt fair wind, but no ſooner had I, at his preſſing requeſt, ſent all my baggage on board, than he began to deviſe excuſes for ſtaying in hopes of procuring more cargo or other paſſengers. By affected delays he put off ſailing for ſome days, which I paſſed in a very diſagreeable manner in continual walks between my lodgings and the ſhip. I am indebted to the politeneſs of Mr. Bomeeſter, the Britiſh conſul, for the little reſpite I had from this irkſome employment, and for the entertainment his company afforded me. At laſt, ſeeing the captain as unwilling as ever to fulfil

his agreement, and being apprehenſive if we did ſail together in ſuch ill-humour with each other, that he would not touch at Naples but carry me on to Marſeilles, I hired a ſix oared fellucca for Naples and ſet out immediately. The Provençal refuſed to deliver up my effects, and, for fear I ſhould compel him to give them by lodging a complaint before the governor, hoiſted ſail and dropped down to Punta del Faro, a few miles off, where he caſt anchor before I had left the port *.

SEC-

* Nummi Meſſan.

Ex Argento.

1. Delphin. ΔΑΝΚΛΕ—In tab. quadr. incuſs. caput imberbe.
2. Laurea in qua ΜΕΣ—Lepus currens concha.
3. Vir in big. ſup. volit. vict. gran. hord.—In laurea lepus et concha ΜΕΣΣΑΝΙΟΝ.
4. Biga 2 delph. vict. ſupervol.—Lepus cap. human. ΜΕΣΣΑΝΙΟΝ.
5. Figura nuda barb. in curru uno equo ducto—fol.—Lepus ΜΕΣΣΑΝΙΟΝ.

6. Biga

SECTION LVIII.

THE commerce of both Sicilies is almoſt entirely of a paſſive nature, ariſing from the neceſſity of diſpoſing of their ſuperfluous products

6. Biga 2 delph. ΜΕΣΣΑΝΙΟΝ—Lepus. Ariſt. ΜΕΣΣΑΝΙΩΝ.

7. Cap. mulieb. gran. redimit. 2 piſces—Victoria in big. —ΜΕΣΣΑΝΙΩΝ.

8. Cap. imb. 2 piſces ΝΑΙ—Mil. nud. d. haſt. s. clyp. ten. ΜΕΣΣΑΝΙΩΝ.

9. Herculis cap. ΜΕΣΣΑΝΙΩΝ—Leo. clava $\overline{\text{IN}}$E.

10. Fig. in big. duabus mul. duct. 2 piſces ΜΕΣΣΑΝΟ—Apis ΜΕΣΣΑΝΟ.

11. Fig. in curru cum mul. fulmen ΜΕΣΣΑΝΟ—Lepus concha.

12. Cap. Cereris 2 piſces ΜΕΣΣΑΝΟ—Miles nud. d. haſt. s. clyp. ΜΕΣΣΑΝΙΩΝ.

13. Lepus Æ locuſta ΜΕΣΣΑΝΑΙΟΝ—Polypus.

products in exchange for thoſe of foreign countries, which habit and luxury have rendered neceſſary to them for the ſupport, cloathing, or convenience of their inhabitants. A very ſmall proportion of their own raw materials are manufactured in the country either for home conſumption or foreign ſale, and no traffick is here carried on by purchaſing foreign commodities on ſpeculation, and ſending them out again to an advantageous market. Induſtry of that kind is unknown, and the very trifling quantity of ſhipping belonging to theſe realms, proves the little attention paid to ſuch a line of trade; the conſtant warfare ſubſiſting between them and the States of Barbary, neceſſarily confines them in their voyages, and induces them to give the preference to ſuch bottoms as navigate under a

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. Herc. imb. ΜΕΣΣΑΝΙΩΝ—Leo tæda.
2. Cap. mul. diad. ΜΕΣΣΑΝΑ—Figura in biga.
3. Biga cum figur. nud.—Lepus ΜΕΣΣΑΝΙΟΝ.

Cæteri ad Mamertinos ſpectant.

free

free flag. Almoſt every article received into theſe kingdoms may more properly be ſaid to be called in by artificial wants and the caprices of luxury, than brought to ſupply the real call of neceſſity; a moderate degree of ſpirit and encouragement might eaſily procure the ſame ſupplies at home, or at leaſt good ſuccedanea; lead, iron, and ſome other commodities, muſt, no doubt, be excepted, and conſidered as acquirable only by importation. On the other hand, all the exports are the raw unmanufactured produce of the ſoil; therefore in years of ſcarcity, the inconveniences ariſing from the inequalities in their fund, and the equality of the demand for foreign merchandize, muſt be ſeverely felt.

In many points Sicily has an advantage over Naples, but as to its general mode of traffick is much more diſagreeably ſituated, for Sicily does not deal ſo directly with foreign ports; it receives moſt of its imports through the medium

of a conſignment to Naples. I ſpeak in general terms, for it ſometimes happens that foreigners bring a freight to the iſland at the riſk of the market, and trade directly with the Sicilian merchants: this is the caſe in years of bad crops in other countries, when Sicily, ſtill the never-failing granary of Europe, offers her conſtant and abundant harveſts to other nations, and becomes the general rendezvous, where the diſtreſſed countries apply for ſuſtenance: the balance runs then very high in favour of Sicily, eſpecially againſt Spain, and ſpecie is then remarkably plentiful in the iſland.

The numerous rich articles produced in Sicily are ſo neceſſary to the well-being of other nations, that its profits and proſperity would be boundleſs, were it not for a multitude of vicious arrangements and pernicious ſhackles, with which its commerce is harraſſed and waſted down. I ſhall endeavour to point out ſome of the moſt onerous, after recapitulating the various commodities

commodities Sicily can part with to ſtrangers, without injuring or cramping its home conſumption. The real harbours are few where veſſels can lie in ſafety during a ſtorm, but there are many roads in which, during the fine ſeaſon, ſhips can ride at anchor and receive their cargoes from lighters with great ſecurity.

The principal trade of the iſland is carried on at Palermo and Meſſina; the former conſumes of imports four or five times more than the latter; but on account of lighter duties, Meſſina exports a greater quantity of ſilk, and ſupplies the inland towns with more commodities. The buſineſs of other places on the coaſt, conſiſts ſolely in ſhipping corn, wine, ſalt, &c. Trapani, on account of its famous ſalt-pans and the ſhipping belonging to it, is one of the buſieſt commercial towns in the iſland.

EXPORTS.

Corn.—No ſhips can take in a cargo at any port or road in Sicily, without previouſly touching at Palermo, and procuring a permit for that purpoſe at the rate of one tariper ſalma. No exportation of wheat can take place, but by leave of the *real patrimonio*, a tribunal that takes an account of the year's crop, and the demand for home-ſupply, before it iſſues any licences for exportation. Theſe are not difficult to obtain, nor will I certify what I have heard inſinuated, that the great feudatories find means to monopolize theſe permits, and to oblige the leſſer proprietors of land to diſpoſe of their corn to them.

In order to give greater opportunities of carrying on ſo lucrative a trade, to which the number of ports, eſpecially on the ſouthern coaſt, is by no means adequate, many eſtabliſhments have been made at proper places called *caricatori*.

caricatori. Here corn may be brought and depoſited in public magazines till an opportunity offers of ſhipping it off. A receipt is given, which is negociable like a bill of exchange during one year. The depoſit is taken care of, and accounted for to the proprietor, who is at full liberty to ſell it in what proportion he pleaſes. The *caricatore* finds its profit in a duty of eighteen taris per ſalma on the corn exported, and in the increaſe of weight in the corn. If a cargo be ſhipped immediately after harveſt, an additional tari is charged to make up for the loſs of increaſe by this ſpeedy removal. Girgenti, Termini, Sciacca, and Licata, are the four great caricatori; the leſſer ones are Marſala, Caſtelamare, Siculiana, Terranova, Scoglietti, Melaſſo, Cefalu, Oliveri, and a few very ſmall ones beſides.

Large quantities of barley and pulſe grow in Sicily, but very little oats or millet. Canary-bird ſeed is exported to a large amount, and is almoſt peculiar to the iſland.

Kidney-beans abound, and are ſhipped moſtly at Palermo and Scoglietti. Barley at Sciacca, Girgenti, Licata, and Scoglietti; beans and other pulſe at Catania, Girgenti, Alicata, and Sciacca. Sicily produces but little Indian corn.

Oil.—Large quantities of oil are exported from Melazzo, Oliveri, Pittineo, Cefalu, and Palermo, all which places lie on the north ſide of the iſland. About 4800 ſalme annually.

Wine.—In abundance and great variety from Syracuſe, Catania, Caſtelvetrano, Marſala, Caſtelamare, and Melazzo.

Brandy.—Much exported, becauſe the burning of it is not monopolized, nor the exportation reſtrained as at Naples.

Cheese.—White of goat's milk, and yellow, or *cagiocavallo* of cow's milk.

Salt Fish.—The fiſheries are very productive, and great quantities of tunny, anchovies, and ſardines are ſalted and ſent from the neighbourhood of theſe places, where they are caught.

Silk.

Silk.—The art of feeding ſilk-worms and making ſilk is ſaid by Procopius to have been brought to Conſtantinople in the reign of Juſtinian the Firſt, in the ſixth century, by a monk from the eaſtern parts of Aſia. George of Antioch, commander of a fleet belonging to Roger king of Sicily, having made a ſucceſsful cruize on the coaſt of Negropont, carried off ſeveral artificers ſkilled in the manufacture of ſilk, and the management of the inſects. He ſettled them in Sicily, from whence the art was communicated to the weſtern countries of Europe.

Silk is conſidered as the ſecond great ſource of riches to Sicily, corn being undoubtedly the firſt: a quantity of ſilk, equal in value to a million of ducats (187,500l.) is annually exported. Palermo and Meſſina alone ſend it out; a conſiderable quantity of the materials are manufactured in both places; but Palermo, which employs nine hundred looms, exports very little, moſt of its ſilks being uſed at home.—Meſſina employs twelve hundred looms, and Catania ra-

ther more. In the Meſſineſe manufactures a variety of ſilks are made, but the ſilk is ſeldom well drawn, died, or matched, and the work is apt to prove hard and to rub.—Moſt of it goes to the Levant.

Fruit.—The environs of Girgenti abound with almonds, but other ports alſo furniſh a conſiderable ſtock. Lipari gives raiſins and currants, but of a quality inferior to thoſe of Calabria. Sicily alone produces Piſtachio nuts. Carob beans are likewiſe an article of trade. Two thouſand cheſts of oranges are ſhipped annually at Meſſina

Flax, Hemp, and Cotton.—Very little is produced.

Manna.—The Sicilian manna is not ſo good as that of Monte Gargano. Moſt of it is gathered near Carini, Favarotta, &c. and exported from Palermo. A great deal goes likewiſe from Meſſina, and, as there is neither prohibition nor monopoly, and the duty is fixed, theſe trees are cultivated with more ſpirit and advantage

here

here than in the kingdom of Naples, where the manna is farmed out, and the trade hampered with baneful excluſive rights and inhibitions.

BARILLA.—A large quantity is ſhipped from the ſouthern coaſt. The quantity ſent to England is near the half of the quantity ſent thither from Spain.

SALT.—Trapani produces the whiteſt and heavieſt: Auguſta, Camarata, and Spaccaforno give a large quantity. It is entirely free from all duty, the nation having perſevered and ſucceeded in a conſtant oppoſition to every attempt made towards raiſing a revenue out of it, except in the articles of ſalt for fiſh, for exportation, and for feeding ſheep.

SUMACH.—The moſt eſteemed comes from Alcamo, Caſtelamare, and Monreale. The next in quality grows at Termini and Girgenti.

LEMON-JUICE.—Meſſina ſends off ſix thouſand cheſts of pickled lemons, and the reſt of the

the kingdom about as much more; two hundred and eighty barrels of lemon-juice weighing ten ſalme each, and 27 cwt. of bergamot-juice.

HARE and RABBET SKINS.—Principally the latter, as they bear a much better price.

RAGS.—Which the Sicilians are ſilly enough to ſell to the Genoeſe, and buy back again in paper, though they have the example of the Neapolitans before their eyes, who have built paper-mills.

SULPHUR.—Of good quality and great abundance, made near Mazzareno and ſhipped at Terranova.

There are other objects of export trade, which might be recapitulated, but not being ſufficiently conſiderable, do not deſerve a place in the liſt. The principal articles are linſeed-oil, gall-nuts, turpentine, lumber, &c.

IMPORTS.

As all the ſpecies of merchandize that are brought into the kingdom of Naples are alſo imported into that of Sicily, the liſt given in the firſt volume of the articles imported into the Neapolitan ports will anſwer the ſame purpoſe here. The difference between the import traffick of each reſpective country conſiſts in this, that the Sicilian merchants never ſend commiſſions to the original marts, ſuch as England, France, Germany, or America, but receive their goods at ſecond-hand from the Genoeſe, Venetian, or Leghorneſe factors. Indeed it muſt be conſidered that they have no bottoms of their own to ſend to market, and if foreign ſhips were not to come and carry off the produce of their lands, it might rot on the ſurface. So that except the Trapaneſe, who ſhew a little ſpark of activity and commercial intelligence, the reſt of the na-

tion remains paſſive to be plundered by the more adventurous ſpeculators of other countries. Of late, on account of longer credit being given, the Sicilians incline more to deal with Naples than with Leghorn. The cuſtom-houſe of Palermo allows ſo ſhort and confined a leave of depoſit or tranſit, and that embarraſſed with ſo many complex and inconvenient impoſitions, that ſpeculation becomes too dangerous an experiment for a merchant with a moderate capital to try.

DUES and IMPOSTS relative to TRADE.

The proportions and modes of collecting obſerved in the management of the cuſtoms are ſo various, that it is very difficult to ſpeak otherwiſe than in general terms, and according to average ſtatements. They agree in nothing but the vicious method of charging goods according

to

to their ſuppoſed value, not by a regular rate. It is a rule in every port, except Meſſina, to charge the duty upon merchandize, paſſing through the cuſtom-houſe, according to the eſtimate of a broker and the current prices, ſo that the duties vary every day, and great are the inconveniencies and injuſtices attending ſuch a vague procedure.

It is very difficult to give a preciſe idea of ſo complicated a ſubject, but I ſhall endeavour to draw up a ſhort ſtatement of the principal dues exacted at Palermo and all the reſt of the Iſland, except Meſſina, which will require an article apart.

On IMPORTATION.

All goods entered, are valued upon affidavit. If they are tranſmitted to any other place in Sicily, they are exempt from all further duties, provided they be landed at places belonging to

the crown; if on baronial eſtates, or eccleſiaſtical diſtricts, they are left to the mercy of particular regulations.

If entered at any other port than Palermo, they are ſubject to the king's duty and the cuſtoms of the place, which vary exceedingly. Sugar and fine cloth can be landed no where but at the capital and Meſſina.

The natives of twenty-four cities and towns enjoy the privilege of paying leſs than any other inhabitants upon certain entries, but there are ſo many other charges made, that their franchiſes and exemptions amount in reality to a very trifling ſaving. Beſides, the fair of S. Chriſtina at Palermo, during which foreigners and non-exempt natives have the liberty of importing in a free manner, helps to put all parties nearly upon a level.

All goods pay two taris per onza, on the valuation, two grana and one half per cantaro for the uſe of the weights, and five taris for a permit. Over and above this impoſition, all pieces

of cloth, linen, or ſilk, pay for meaſurement ten grana, and from one to four taris a piece according to the quality.

Refined ſugars pay thirty taris per cantaro, Muſcavado ſugars twenty, and half per cent. for the weights, and dried fiſh pays twelve per cent. in kind.

Wax is the only commodity that has a fixed rate. It pays 14 ounces per cantaro.

N. B. There is an increaſe of theſe duties for foreigners and non-exempts that raiſes the duty from $6\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. to $8\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. Goods are allowed to remain fifteen days only in the public warehouſes before they are ſent into the interior parts of the iſland.

On EXPORTATION.

Corn pays no duty but the tax upon the licence for exporting. Nothing can be ſo various as the method of taxation in the different ports, and therefore it is impoſſible without en-

tering into long details to ſpecify them. The only general rule is to tax according to the value given in by the brokers.

Upon an average, the amount of duties paid upon goods exported is three per cent. for *dazio regio* and $3\frac{1}{3}$ for *tratta locale*. Foreigners and non-exempts pay $1\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. more.

It is now fifty-five years ſince the commercial inhabitants of Meſſina, being convinced of the inconveniences attending the vague and perplexed ſyſtem of the Sicilian cuſtom houſes, applied to government for leave to eſtabliſh other regulations: this being obtained, they fixed upon an eaſy, equal, and expeditious method of proceeding.

All goods imported pay once for all one per cent. of their value according to a fixed moderate rate, and may be exported again without any additional demand; but if they are ſent into the country, even to Palermo, they become ſubject to a duty of $3\frac{1}{3}$ per cent.

All commodities, natives of Sicily, may be introduced upon the ſame terms.

There

There are ſome ſmall exceptions with regard to proviſions, ſalt-fiſh, and ſugar.

Reſpecting commodities exported, raw-ſilk pays no duty at the place where it is made, every thing being paid at Palermo or Meſſina; at the latter it pays 6⅔ per cent. according to the book of rates, ſix per cent. for the gabella, and four per cent. more for expences till the ſhip ſails.

Manufactured ſilks are exempt from the gabella. But there is alſo levied upon all goods imported or exported throughout the iſland, twenty-five grana per cantaro for weighing.

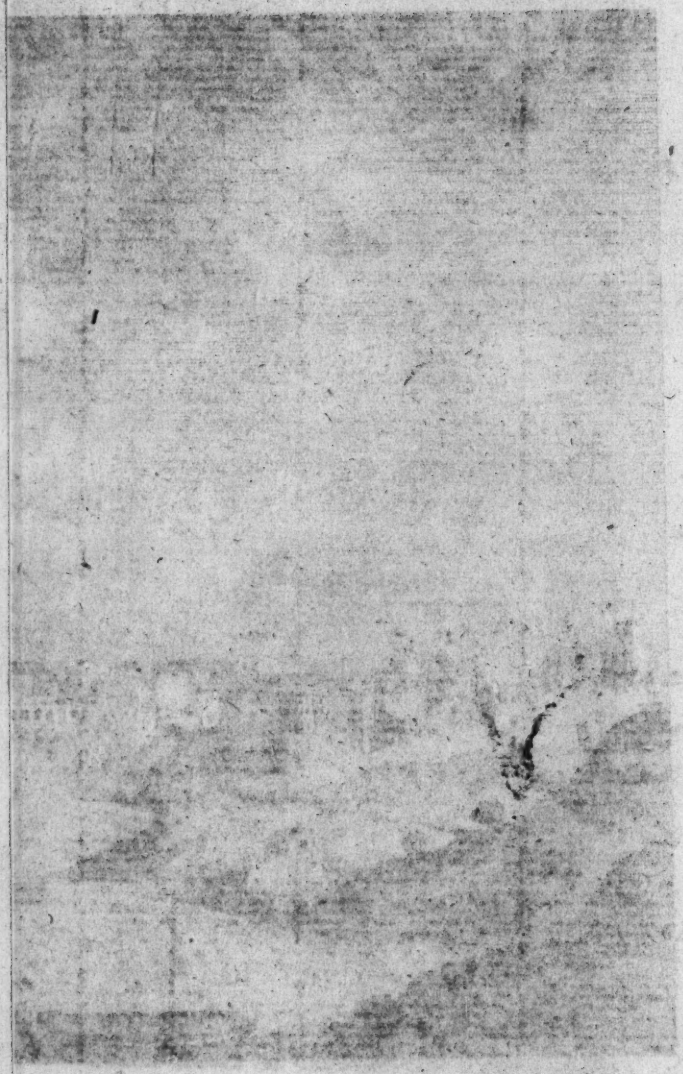
VOYAGE FROM MESSINA TO TROPEA.

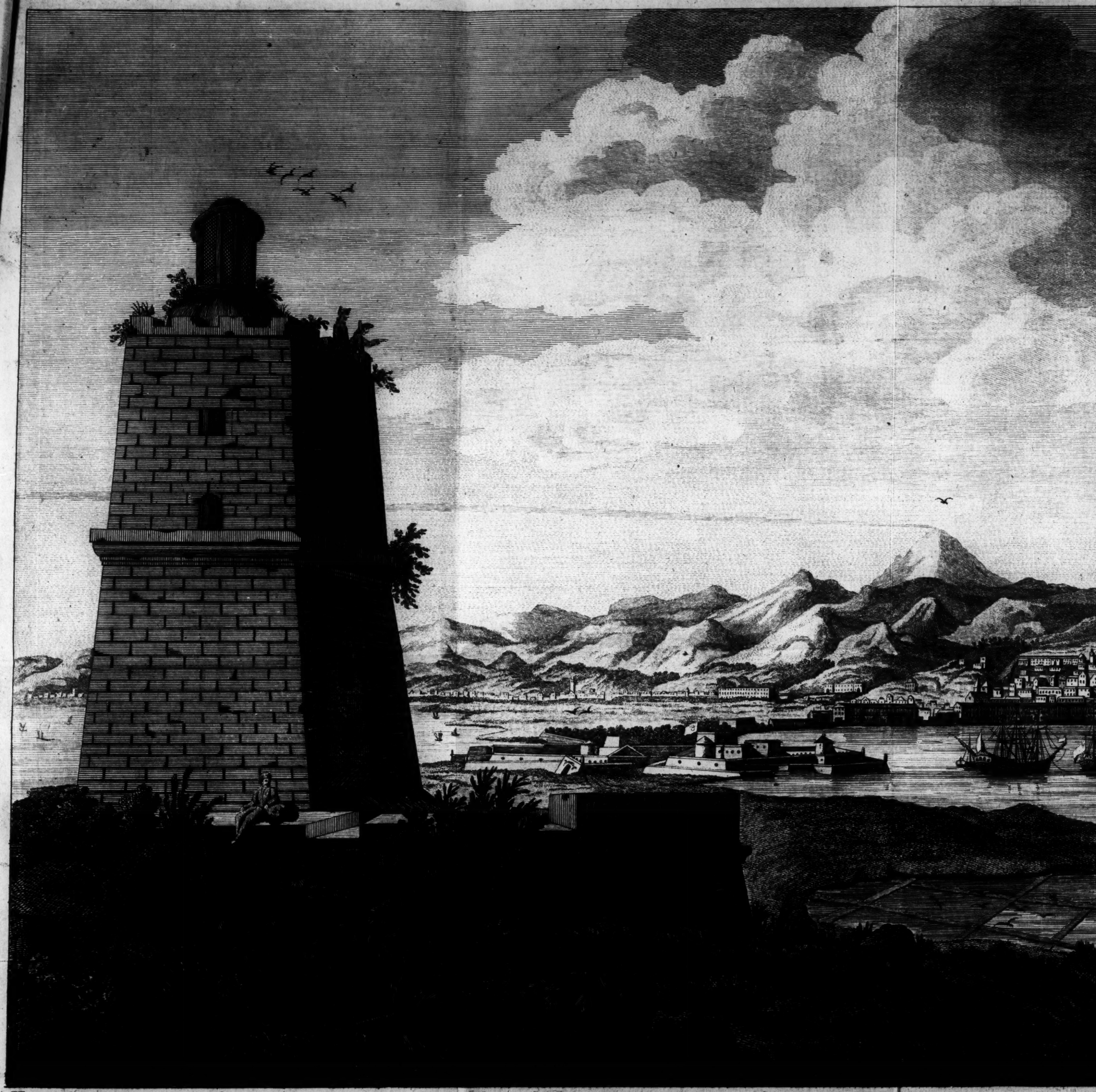
SECTION LIX.

ON the 7th of February, at three in the afternoon, I entered the barge with my two ſervants. We had only a few changes of linen, a mattreſs I had bought for the occaſion, a ſack of potatoes, and a keg of porter, the preſent of an Engliſh captain bound to the Levant, our great coats, and the cloaths we then wore. The arms of the company conſiſted of my pocket piſtols, without a ſecond charge of powder

H. Inv. del. *P. Mazell sculp.*

View of TROPEA.



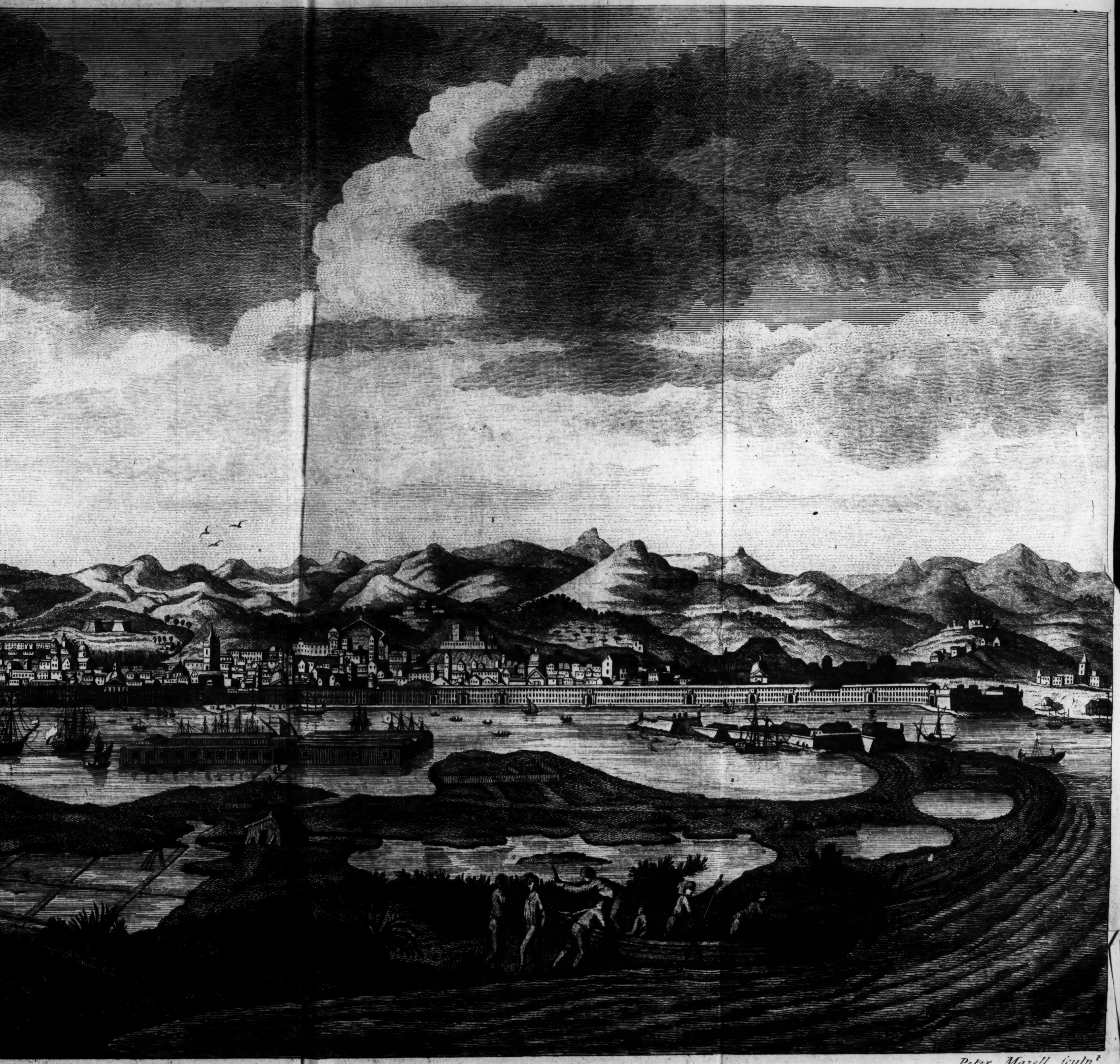


Henry Swinburne Esq.r del.t

~ *Mount Etna*
~ ~ *Citadel*
~ ~ ~ *Cathedral*
~ ~ ~ ~ *Lazaretto*

A VIEW *of* ME

Publish'd according to Act of Parliament



Peter Mazell sculp.t

ESSINA as in 1777.

~~~~~ St. Salvador
~~~~~~ Light House
~~~~~~~ Salt Ponds

arliament, Oct.r 31. 1783, by W. Faden, Printseller, Corner of St. Martins Lane, Strand.
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powder and ball; one hanger, which was grown ſo ruſty it could not be drawn out of the ſcabbard; and two whips. Thus lightly equipped we left Meſſina, and rowed along the ſhore of La Grutta, a famous pilgrimage; and, ſaluting our French captain as we paſſed him at anchor, reached Cape Peloro, and the Torre del Faro. This is a long, ſandy neck of land advancing within one mile and an half of the Calabrian coaſt, which is here very abrupt and lofty.

This iſthmus ſhuts up the ſtreights to the eye, ſo that the tower and light-houſe appear to be on the Italian ſide of the water. It is ſo difficult to navigate through the entrance of the Faro, that pilots are always ſtationed ready to put to ſea, as ſoon as a veſſel is ſeen in the offing; if the captain refuſes to give up the helm, he becomes perſonally reſponſible for any accident that may happen to the ſhip. The diſtance acroſs is ſo ſmall, that many inſtances occur in hiſtory of its being paſſed in a very adventurous manner. Timoleon and the Corinthians,

thians, finding the ſeas too well guarded by the tyrant Dionyſius and his confederates for them to attempt an invaſion of Sicily openly, made uſe of the following expedient to effect their purpoſe. They embarked at Rhegium in ſmall fiſhing boats, and, making their horſes ſwim by their ſide, thus croſſed the channel that Dionyſius thought an inſuperable barrier.

When the univerſal ſubmiſſion of Puglia and Calabria gave the Normans leiſure to meditate the conqueſt of the neighbouring iſland, Roger paſſed over with a ſmall body of forces, more for the ſake of reconnoitring the country, the ſtrength and ſituation of his enemies, than with the hopes of gaining any ſolid advantage over them in this firſt expedition. He had ſome encounters with them, and formed an idea of the oppoſition he was to expect; but, being apprehenſive his few followers might be overpowered by numbers, thought it prudent to retire in time; he carried them back to Reggio, in little cobles, and upon rafts.

But the moſt extraordinary exploit of the kind is found in the life of St. Francis de Paula: The writers of his hiſtory boldly affirm, that being refuſed a paſſage in the ferry-boat, as he had nothing to pay it with, he ſpread his cloak upon the waters, and raiſed one end of it with his ſtaff, ſo as to form the hull, ſail, and maſt; he then ſtepped upon it, and with a proſperous gale croſſed the ſtreights.

I ſtopped a few minutes to take a laſt view of Meſſina, which appears very nobly from this point; and then doubled the Cape of Pelorus, the northern promontory of the triangle, from which Sicily derived the name of Trinacria, and its emblematical ſymbol *. We now glided cloſe under Scylla's much dreaded rocks, without cauſe of fear; for the water was ſcarcely undulated, and no ſurf was ſeen to break at the foot of the cliff, nor bellowing heard among its dark caverns. When a tempeſt rages, the

* Three human thighs joined in a full face crowned with ears of corn.

daſhing and roaring of the billows, as they are driven into theſe broken cavities, is truly horrible, and capable of ſtriking terror into the moſt intrepid mariner, if his veſſel drives near this claſh of the elements. A large caſtle covers the ſummit of this famous rock, and from it a line of houſes extends on both ſides in a ſlope to the beach, which is ſimicircular, planted with trees, and ſheltered by very high cliffs *. The inhabitants of Scylla are induſtrious mariners and fiſhermen, and have the reputation of being a mild, honeſt race of men, but not wanting in proper ſpirit, when rouſed by oppreſſion. They have lately exhibited a ſtrong proof of their courage and perſeverance, in a proſecution they have carried on againſt the lord of the manor. The prince of Scylla, who is of the Rufo family †, was accuſed of exerciſing the moſt wanton

* Theſe cliffs are compoſed of calcareous rock reſting upon a maſs of granite.

† The family of Rufo is ſuppoſed to be deſcended from a relation

wanton tyranny over his vaſſals, and of employing a band of miſcreants, not only againſt the property, but even the lives of the unhappy Scyllitans. The continuance of ſuch barbarous uſage drove them to an exertion rather uncommon in a country where ariſtocratical dominion has yet ſo ſtrong a hold; they formed a committee, and ſent it by ſea to lay their grievances at the foot of the throne, and to implore the protection of the king, from whom alone they could expect ſupport and ſafety. Theſe patriotic citizens were not daunted by the weighty intereſt of the baronage, which they foreſaw would join to defeat their attack upon one of its members, nor by the expence to be incurred, and the certainty of ſtill greater ſufferings, in caſe of ill ſucceſs in their law ſuit; they liſtened ſolely to the ſenſe of their wrongs, and the acuteneſs of their reſentment, and purſued their

a relation of the Norman dukes of Puglia, and has ever ſince been rated amongſt the richeſt and greateſt barons of the realm.

object with unremitting vigour: during the ſtruggle, they found an able aſſiſtant in their fellow citizen P. Antonio Minaſi, to whoſe zeal and intelligence they probably owe the victory they at laſt obtained over their antagoniſt.—A victory not ſo complete as the juſtneſs of their cauſe might perhaps have entitled them to, but certainly very conſiderable in ſo unequal a conflict, and redounding highly to the praiſe of the ſovereign, who muſt have found incredible obſtacles of all kinds to overcome before he could obtain a candid fair ſtate of the caſe, whereon to found his ſentence; it was a very humiliating one for the prince of Scylla *.

SEC-

* Theſe unhappy differences have been ſettled by the terrible earthquake which, on the 5th of February, 1783, deſtroyed the town of Scylla; and by an inundation of the ſea, that in one moment ſwept into eternity 2743 inhabitants, together with their baron. This fatal event has made ſo total an alteration in the face of the country I deſcribe, that it ſeems a duty incumbent upon me to give ſome

SECTION LX.

WE had ſcarcely reached the point of Bagnara, before we found the current ſet in ſo ſtrong towards Sicily, that all our efforts to

ſome account of it, in order to make my readers acquainted with the preſent as well as the former ſtate of the unhappy province of Calabria. For that purpoſe, I ſhall firſt tranſcribe a letter written ſoon after from Scylla by a perſon who had been preſent at every ſcene of the calamity.

Scilla, February 10.

——"How am I to deſcribe to you the horrors that "have ſurrounded me without intermiſſion ſince the fatal "day that ſaw the ruin of our wretched country?— "Where am I to find words equal to the acuteneſs of my "feelings, or fit to expreſs even a thouſandth part of the "diſaſters

to advance were ineffectual, and we were obliged to drop down with it to the Sicilian ſhore, and

" diſaſters that have befallen us? Oh what a day! But " what a night ſucceeded it!

" On the 5th of February at 19 hours and 3 quarters " we felt a ſhock that began by an upward heaving mo- " tion, which gave the alarm, and time to moſt perſons " to run out of their houſes: ſome fled to the windows " and balconies; others took refuge under the arches of " the doors. This upright motion of the earth was ſoon " ſucceeded by ſhaking and rocking, during which we " beheld our houſes tumbling on all ſides. The walls and " towers of the caſtle were ſplit aſunder and overturned " upon the town; the buildings below were cruſhed to " atoms, and one hundred and fifty perſons periſhed in " this fall. At night a conſiderable part of the inhabitants, " chiefly of the claſs of ſailors, followed the example of " the prince, and repaired to the beach; they there " pitched tents, or lay down in their barks, hoping to paſs " the night in perfect ſecurity at a diſtance from all " buildings. The ſky was bright and ſerene, the ſea " lulled in a profound calm, and all theſe poor people " were indulging in ſweet ſleep a ſhort reſpite from their woes.

and caſt anchor till the ebb of the tide. The evening was extremely pleaſant, and the proſpect all

" woes. In this treacherous ſtate of things, a little after " midnight the whole promontory of Campala fell at once " into the ſea, without any previous earthquake *. The " ſea fled back before this maſs towards the Golilla del " Faro, where it carried off twenty-eight perſons with " their boats and houſes; then returning with redoubled " fury acroſs its natural channel, flowed on the ſhore of " Scylla thirty palms above its uſual level, and three miles " along the coaſt. As it fell back again, it ſwept away " into the abyſs 2475 perſons, who were lying on the " ſands, or in boats. Horrible were the ſhrieks of the " ſurvivors, who happened to be above the reach of the " ſurge, and tremendous was the alarm given over all " the ſurrounding hills, where the remainder of the in-

* The mountains near Scylla have a baſe of granite abounding in quartz, and mica, with a little field ſpath. Above this lies a marine calcareous ſtratum, and at intervals among it a metallic ſchiſt, clay, and vegetable earth. The earthquakes had made great perpendicular fiſſures in Monte Campalà and detached it from the continent; the torrents ruſhing from the higher mountains, and much increaſed by rain, compleated the ſeparation by the weight and action of their waters.

all round truly enchanting; mountains encloſed us on every ſide but one, where the Liparean iſlands

"habitants were diſperſed for ſafety! no cries, no la-
"mentations, were heard from thoſe that were thus hur-
"ried off; they had no power or time to utter any. Next
"morning preſented a moſt ſhocking ſpectacle; 800 bodies
"were waſhed aſhore, moſt of them mangled in ſo dread-
"ful a manner by the broken boats, goods, and logs of
"wood that were floated off with them, that ſcarcely a hu-
"man feature remained in thoſe faces which we had ſo
"long known, and looked upon with the pleaſure of friends
"or relations. With ſtreaming eyes we laboured the en-
"ſuing day, in dragging theſe ſad remains into heaps,
"and conſuming them with fire, to prevent the contagion
"ſo many dead bodies might breed, if left to putrify in
"the open air. A few perſons were drawn out of the water
"with ſigns of life: but ſo wounded and diſabled as ſcarcely
"to afford room to hope they can recover. Hope, did I
"ſay? Alas! rather ought it to be fear; for what have
"they left in life that can be deſirable?—their fortunes
"ruined—their friends and families deſtroyed;—famine,
"diſeaſe, and pain, are all they have to expect."

The ſame inſtant was fatal to the whole province, and the devaſtation cauſed by the repeated ſhocks was much more

iſlands roſe along the horizon. Stromboli, a little to the right of them, threw up a great quan-

more terrible in many places than at Scylla; they raged with fury from Cape Spartivento to Amantea above the gulf of St. Eufemia, and alſo affected that part of Sicily which lies oppoſite to the ſouthern extremity of Italy. Thoſe of the 5th and 7th of February, and of the 28th of March, were the moſt violent, and compleated the deſtruction of every building throughout the abovementioned ſpace. Not one ſtone was left upon another ſouth of the narrow iſthmus of Squillace; and what is more diſaſtrous, a very large proportion of the inhabitants was killed by the falling of their houſes: near 40,000 lives were loſt. Some perſons were dug out alive after remaining a ſurpriſing length of time buried among the rubbiſh. Meſſina became a maſs of ruins; its beautiful palazzata was thrown in upon the town; its quay cracked into ditches full of water. Reggio almoſt deſtroyed—Tropea greatly damaged—Every other place I viſited in the province levelled to the ground.

Before and during the concuſſion, the clouds gathered, and then hung immoveable and heavy over the earth. At Palmi the atmoſphere wore ſo fiery an aſpect that many people thought part of the town was burning. It was

quantity of flames during the whole night. We were ſurrounded by fiſhing boats. The Calabreſe

afterwards remembered that an unuſual heat had affected the ſkin of ſeveral perſons juſt before the ſhock; the rivers aſſumed a muddy aſh-coloured tinge, and a ſulphureous ſmell was almoſt general. A frigate paſſing between Calabria and Lipari felt ſo ſevere a ſhock, that the ſteerſman was thrown from the helm, and the cannons were raiſed up on their carriages, while all around the ſea exhaled a ſtrong ſmell of brimſtone.

Stupendous alterations were occaſioned in the face of the country; rivers choaked up by the falling-in of the hills were converted into lakes, which, if not ſpeedily drained by ſome future convulſion, or opened by human labour, will fill the air with peſtilential vapours, and deſtroy the remnants of population. Whole acres of ground, with houſes and trees upon them, were broken off from the plains, and waſhed many furlongs down the deep hollows which the courſe of the rivers had worn; there, to the aſtoniſhment and terror of beholders, they found a new foundation to fix upon, either in an upright or an inclining poſition. In ſhort, every ſpecies of phænomenon incident to theſe deſtructive commotions of the earth, was to be ſeen in its utmoſt extent and variety in this ruinated country.

breſe fiſhermen catch the larger ſort of fiſh with a net of ſmall twine about two hundred yards

country. It may furniſh employment for the ingenuity of the naturaliſt to trace theſe paroxyſms up to ſome favourite ſyſtem; but he muſt deſpair of ever deviſing any method of counteracting their baneful operations. The utmoſt he can hope to attain is, to be able to aſcertain preluding ſymptoms, which, if attended to, may hereafter be the means of ſaving the lives of the inhabitants. With this view, and to ſatisfy the general curioſity of Europe, ſtrongly excited by the report of ſuch a cataſtrophe, their Sicilian majeſties ſoon after ſent into Calabria a committee of academicians, provided with every means of obtaining knowledge, and making obſervations. But the advancement of ſcience was only a ſecondary object; warm with the genuine ſentiments of humanity, heightened by a true paternal affection for their ſubjects, they diſpatched veſſels loaded with every thing that could be thought of on the occaſion for the relief and accommodation of the diſtreſſed Calabrians. A general officer went from Naples, with engineers and troops to direct the operations of the perſons employed in clearing away and rebuilding the houſes, and to defend the property of the ſufferers.

yards long, and twelve feet deep; this weak net folds round the fiſh in ſo many rolls, that, by his

The king ordered this officer to take all the money the royal treaſures could ſupply or borrow; for, rather than it ſhould be wanting on this preſſing call, he was determined to part with his plate, nay, the very furniture of his palace. Heaven knows how neceſſary at this criſis were the exertions and liberality of the ſovereigns! for famine, with its uſual follower diſeaſe, was already felt in the moſt horrible degree throughout the province. A meſſenger ſent off from a town near Reggio on the 8th of February, travelled four days without ſhelter, and without being able to procure a morſel of bread; he ſupported nature with a piece of cheeſe which he had brought in his pocket, and the vegetables he was lucky enough to find near the road. To add to all their other ſufferings, the Calabrians found themſelves and the miſerable wreck of their fortunes expoſed to the depredations of robbers and pirates. Villains landed from boats, and plundered ſeveral places, and thieves went even from Naples in ſearch of booty: in order to ſtrike a greater terror, they dreſſed themſelves like Algerines; but were diſcovered, and driven off. To this accumulated diſtreſs ſucceeded a moſt inclement ſeaſon, which obſtructed every effort made to alleviate

his own efforts to eſcape, he becomes quite hampered and diſabled, without having the power

viate it; and almoſt daily earthquakes kept the inhabitants in continual dread, not of being deſtroyed by the fall of houſes, for none were left, but of being ſwallowed up by the ſplitting of the earth, or buried in the waves by ſome ſudden inundation. The earthquakes have continued at different intervals to this day, two years ſince the great ſhock.

Upon comparing the dates of the great earthquakes that have afflicted Calabria ſince the eleventh century, I find that ſeven of them happened in the four firſt months of the year, one in Auguſt, and four in November and December. The firſt week in February had been twice fatal; and the 27th day of March thrice marked by the calamity before 1783.

I think it worthy of remark that, in the month of February, 1783, a perſon well acquainted with Naples, being at my houſe in the county of Durham, obſerved upon the unuſual variation of the barometer, that it was probable we ſhould ſoon hear of ſome great earthquake having happened in the ſouth part of Europe.

As the Neapolitan academicians intended to collect materials for a minute deſcription of the effects of the

power of breaking the meſhes; the fiſhermen gueſs with great nicety the weight of the prey by the violence of the ſtroke with which his tail beats the water when taken.

All this coaſt abounds with teſtaceous fiſh of many different ſpecies.

earthquake, the nature of its phænomena, and the preſent appearance of the country, it is to be hoped they will ſoon favour the world with the reſult of their labours. Till it appears, the reader, who wiſhes a fuller account of this cataſtrophe, will find it in Sir William Hamilton's letter, inſerted in the Philoſophical Tranſactions of 1783.

To blend a tint of more pleaſing colours to ſo gloomy a picture, I muſt not omit to record that the officers and porters belonging to the cuſtom-houſe of Naples, who were employed in packing up and carrying to the ſhips the goods, &c. for Calabria, univerſally refuſed to accept of pay for their labour.

Five Calabrians, caſually reſident at Naples at the time of the earthquake, received from the king's bounty a ſum of two hundred ducats for preſent ſubſiſtence; but as ſoon as theſe men found, by letters from Calabria, that their families and fortunes were not involved in the general ruin, they immediately returned the money to the treaſury.

At

At ſtated ſeaſons ſhoals of fiſh appear at the mouth of the Faro, and are caught in ſurpriſing numbers.

The bays are full of them about the vernal equinox, when the multitudes of tunny, ſword-fiſh, and pelamides, enter the Mediterranean, and paſs before Meſſina, from the end of April to the beggining of July, in their way to the Adriatic, Archipelago, and Black Sea. They then return into the Sicilian ſeas, that their females may depoſit their ſpawn in the calm bays of the Mediterranean. About October the young fry are caught on the coaſt of Amalfi and Puzzuoli, and weigh about twelve pounds. At that ſeaſon the parent fiſh commonly eſcapes, and with its remaining young repairs to the ocean. Theſe ſhoals get into the line of the tides, or currents that run from weſt to eaſt, and in their way towards the ſeas of Greece coaſt along the ſhores of Calabria, and through the Faro of Meſſina, where the narrowneſs and ſuction of the paſſage accelerate their motion.

On their return they ſwim with the ebb tide, and ſteer to the ſouth of Sicily, where the gradual declivity of the bottom makes it more perceptible. Tunnies move in a pyramidical arrangement, preſenting the baſe to the ſtream, by which means they are puſhed forward by it with greater velocity. While the weather is tempeſtuous, or the tide does not anſwer, they play about in the bays, and ſeek food; and here they often fall into ſnares, and meet their fate. The ſword-fiſh, whoſe long ſharp ſnout is dangerous to a neighbour, keep at due diſtance from each other, and travel in an irregular manner. Dolphins form a column in their periodical voyages; but when they mean to give chace to the other inhabitants of the deep, they draw up in ſemicircular array, and force their terrified prey to fly towards the ſhallows; it frequently leaps aſhore to avoid the purſuing enemy, and there falls into the hands of fiſhermen, who having perceived the attack made by the dolphins, run down to the beach to ſeize the fugitives.

The

The pelamides ſwarm here at certain times of the year. Linnæus ſuppoſes theſe fiſhes to be the young fry of the tunny; but Minaſi, who has applied his obſervations very particularly to this branch of natural hiſtory, and has had innumerable opportunities of examining every circumſtance relating to them, is poſitive they are quite a different fiſh, being without ſcales, whereas the tunny is covered with them. During the ſhort winters of this latitude, the pelamides hide themſelves in mud near the mouths of rivers.

Nothing can be more ſimple than the night nets laid by the fiſhermen; they are only a kind of baſket made of the twiſted branches of the myrtle, but are ſufficiently ſtrong to anſwer the purpoſe, and to capture great quantities of divers ſorts of fiſh. Seals, which are not uncommon on this coaſt, break through theſe brittle toils with their teeth to devour the fiſh contained in them, and, as I am credibly informed, often creep aſhore, and eat the grapes that grow near the ſtrand.

As ſoon as the tide began to ſerve, we hoiſted anchor, and taking advantage of a breeze from the Sicilian coaſt, ſet up our ſail, and ſhot acroſs the bay of Gioia with great expedition; this favourable wind fell before morning, and reduced us to the neceſſity of making ſeveral tacks 'ere we could double Cape Vaticano: indeed, the crew were very unwilling to take to their oars while the ſail could be of any ſervice. This cape, famous for Sextus Pompeius's naval victory over Octavius, is not much elevated; it is compoſed of rocks that have more the appearance of hard clay than ſtone; I comforted myſelf under the vexation of proceeding ſo ſlowly with admiring the fiery operations of the iſland of Stromboli, that lay due weſt of us, at the diſtance of about ſixteen leagues. It is a very blunt cone, and throws up fire from a huge orifice in its ſide.—The convulſions of this inceſſant projection of flames and other ſubſtances, have riven its ſummit almoſt in two, and deſtroyed ſo much of the ſoil that uſed to be cultivated,

tivated, that the inhabitants can no longer procure ſubſiſtance. For this reaſon, many of them abſtain from wedlock, and conſequently their numbers decreaſe annually. They are a quiet inoffenſive race, as I was informed from indiſputable authority, and not, as ſome navigators have repreſented them, a ſet of ſavages, on whoſe inhoſpitable ſhore theſe authors durſt not ſet their foot for fear of being murdered. When the wind comes from Scirocco levante, the whole maſs of flames and ſmoke is, upon its iſſuing out of the crater, collected into a narrow cylindrical form, and blown along the ſurface of the ſea for many leagues. The exploſions intermit, and the inhabitants very dextrouſly ſeize the quiet moment to paſs along the ſtrand; if they mis-timed it, they would be buried under a ſhower of red-hot ſtones.

With much difficulty we weathered the point of Tropea, and entered the noble gulf of St. Eufemia, which is near forty miles ſquare; the wind ſpringing up rather briſk, though not quite

quite ſuch as we wiſhed, we boldly ſtood acroſs in a direct northerly courſe; but it ſoon veered about to the N. W. and baffled all our attempts to make Cape Suvero. The ſteerſman obſerving the gale from that quarter was increaſing, and the difficulties of proceeding inſurmountable, turned the helm about, and ran for the piaggia of Tropea, where we moored under the ſhelter of a rock. In about an hour, as the weather was prodigiouſly clear, and the ſituation of our anchoring place cloſely defended from the wind, I was led to hope we might continue our voyage, at leaſt by coaſting round the gulf inſtead of ſtriking acroſs it. But no ſooner had we ſallied from our well-covered creek, than we found our boat toſſed about by an impetuous contrary wind, which it was out of our power to reſiſt; it therefore behoved us to return to Tropea; our bark was drawn aſhore, and lodgings procured for me at a ſolitary convent of Minims, on a hill above the road, and ſome diſtance from the city.

JOUR-

JOURNEY TO NAPLES.

SECTION LXI.

TROPEA* is a biſhop's ſee, containing four thouſand inhabitants; the more wealthy claſs of people and handicraftſmen reſide within

* Tropea derives its name either from the trophies erected by Scipio on his triumphant return from Carthage, or from thoſe of Sextus Pompeius after his naval victory off the neighbouring cape; but ſome authors draw it from the Greek word Τρεπω, *to turn back*, becauſe this promontory drives back the tide to the Streights, and ſuffers it to proceed no farther north.

Tropea was long a manor of the family of Rufo. Upon the forfeiture of Anthony Centella, who married the heireſs, Alphonſus the Firſt united it to the crown.

within the walls, the huſbandmen and labourers dwell on the outſkirts on the lands they cultivate. Its ſituation is admirable, on the point of a lofty rock impending over the ſea, and joined to the main land by an iſthmus that is almoſt cut through at the gates, and thus leaves only a ſmall paſſage to the town. A little to the north lies a large iſland, on which ſome ſheep are turned to graze, and a ſmall one, with a hermitage placed upon its ſummit, in a moſt romantic poſition. The ſtreets of Tropea are narrow, the houſes high and built of ſtone, with great ſolidity. Two gates give admittance, one to perſons coming up the hill from the bay, the other to ſuch as approach along the high plain, on which there is a pleaſant walk near two miles long. This level is half a mile broad between the ſea and a chain of mountains ſo ſteep and rugged, that they ſeem to cut off all communication by land with the reſt of Calabria. The whole flat, and the ſides of the hills, yield abundance of grapes, mulberries, olives, pulſe, vegetables,

tables, and garden fruit: copious ſtreams ruſh from the mountain, and after watering the orchards, are collected into one body, and turn a great number of mills: the method uſed in working the wheels is uncommon; the water is conveyed in a channel to the brink of a deep precipice over the mill, and there received into a ſtone well; by theſe means it falls a conſiderable height upon an overſhot wheel, and having ſerved the purpoſe of this firſt mill, is again collected in a ſimilar manner, and turns ſeveral ſucceſſive wheels till it reaches the ſands. Some of theſe caſcades are exceedingly beautiful, as they fall through arbours of vines and groves of orange-trees.

About two miles eaſt of this city is a village called Paralia, inhabited by a race of manufacturers and mariners, who make cotton blankets, and carry them in their own barks to Marſeilles and Genoa.

February the 10th.—Seeing no hopes of any change in the wind, as at this ſeaſon of the year

it frequently blows from the ſame quarter for ſeveral weeks together, I diſcharged my boat, and determined to purſue my journey to Naples by land.

I had had thoughts of it whiie at Meſſina, but was diſſuaded from the project by the perſons I conſulted; they gave ſuch an account of the lawleſs country I had to paſs through, that they made a profound impreſſion upon the ſervants; but I had ſeen too much of Calabria already to be ſo eaſily alarmed, and that conſideration would have had little weight with me, if my faithful campiere and muletier had not ſet off for Palermo upon my engaging with the French captain. I did not chooſe to truſt myſelf with untried men and horſes, eſpecially as the Sicilians, though very fit guides to travel with in their own country, are not ſo proper for that purpoſe in Calabria, where they are looked upon with an evil eye.

The common people in Sicily have a very extraordinary idea of themſelves; I ſhould ſcarcely

venture to aſcribe it to them upon the ſtrength of my own obſervations, had they not been confirmed by thoſe of many perſons of long experience and acute judgment. The lower claſs of Sicilians generally ſeem to take it for granted that a ſtranger thinks them both ſilly and knaviſh. In numberleſs inſtances they have begun their converſations with me by defending themſelves againſt ſuſpicions which I had not given the leaſt hint of my entertaining; I am aſſured, that at firſt a Sicilian is eaſily duped, but when once he has learnt experience at his coſt, grows quickly a maſter in the art, able to retaliate with intereſt upon thoſe that had over-reached him. A conſiderable number of banditti being hard preſſed by the purſuits of juſtice, north of the Faro, paſſed into Sicily for ſafety; they joined a troop of Sicilian outlaws, whom they ſoon began to tyrannize over as a ſet of weak daſtardly knaves. This uſage ſharpened the feelings of the Sicilians; many of the Calabrians, who grew negligent and unſuſpicious,

were ſeparately deſtroyed, and the remainder were ſo reduced in number, that they had nothing left but to ſell their lives as dear as they could; a reſolution that rid the country of more malefactors in one year than all the tribunals would probably have done in ten. In actual ſervice of danger the Calabrian outlaw is an over-match for the Sicilian; but his thoughts are not at all times equally bent upon miſchief; the Sicilian, on the contrary, has no interval of humanity, when once he has abandoned himſelf to wickedneſs.

The poſt-houſes, having an obligation only of keeping three horſes, would not have been able to furniſh me with a ſufficient number, as I muſt have had a poſt-boy with me from each ſtage; I therefore hired horſes at Tropea to carry us in three days to Coſenza, where I was told I ſhould meet with as many freſh ones as I wanted; the owners accompanied me on foot. We ſet out about noon, and aſcended the mountains by a ſteep, ſlippery road; as ſoon as we had gained the

the ſummit, we entered a large plain, where the highways are level and dry, though the ſoil of the fields is a clayey loam almoſt without any mixture of ſtones. The country reſembles a park, being entirely unincloſed, but ſhaded by irregular avenues and ſtraggling clumps of olive-trees of a ſize large enough to cut for timber. In four hours I reached Monteleone, a conſiderable town placed upon the brow of a hill facing the ſouth, in a moſt incomparable ſituation; from the road I had long enjoyed the view of it. The baronial caſtle occupies the higheſt part, embowered in handſome tufts of deciduous and evergreen trees; the town crowns the reſt of the ſlope in a very happy manner. The range of proſpect is inimitable towards the gulf of St. Eufemia, and towards the Apennines on the eaſt ſide not leſs enchanting: on that hand lies a charming woody vale, through which a river winds its way from the mountains; they are darkened with extenſive foreſts; at their foot riſe leſſer hills, interſected by numberleſs

glens, from the boſom of which aſcends the ſmoke of many ſequeſtered villages. A more chearful or a richer landſcape is no where to be met with; the noble extent of drives and walks that might be carried through theſe airy plains; the great variety of country within reach, and the fineneſs of its climate would render Monteleone a moſt heavenly country reſidence for a great nobleman, if the Neapolitan nobility were ever to adopt the faſhion of paſſing part of the year on their eſtates, and expending a portion of their income in improving and embelliſhing their demeſne.

The duke of Monteleone (Pignatelli), the richeſt ſubject in the kingdom, does not poſſeſs any great quantity of land hereabouts, though the manor, royalties, and juriſdiction belong to him. His vaſſals have often ſtruggled to caſt off his yoke by ſeeking flaws in the ſale or grant, by which his anceſtors obtained poſſeſſion of the fief, but they always have been baffled in the attempt: however, ſuch is their perſevering

ſpirit,

ſpirit, that they have again made an effort to carry their point, and obtain the advantage of being releaſed from feudal ſubjection, and becoming once more part of the crown lands. A gentleman attached to the duke's party, with whom I had ſome converſation, informed me that this law-ſuit has been carried on near eight years, and that the burghers were in all probability no nearer their favourite object than they were the firſt day the cauſe was opened. The partial obſervations of this gentleman added freſh conviction to my ſentiments concerning the evil tendency and pernicious effects of the feudal ſyſtem. The burghers were the ſubject of his ridicule, not from any fault he found with their claim, but from their folly in contending with a lord of ſuch mighty wealth and intereſt; he thought there was as much inſolence and madneſs in their oppoſing the duke, as there would be in a cutter that ſhould fire a broadſide into a firſt-rate man of war; for money is here, as indeed in moſt countries, a

moſt neceſſary inſtrument for conducting a law-ſuit; a plea advanced *in formâ pauperis* admits of little proſpect of a favourable ſentence.

Monteleone was founded by Frederick of Swabia; under the Arragonian race it was alienated to the Pignatelli. It contains thirteen thouſand inhabitants, as I was told, but this number appears too great for the ſize of the town. There are three pariſhes and twelve religious houſes, beſides confraternities.

I was received at a convent of Minims with the greateſt civility, though I had no claim upon them but my want of a lodging; their readineſs to accommodate me was the more remarkable, as their houſe was at that time crowded with friars of the order from other convents aſſembled on account of an annual official meeting; there was not a cell to ſpare, but the worthy prior, a venerable monk of fourſcore years of age gave up his own, and had his pallet carried to the room of another monk.

As

As I knew potatoes muſt be a rarity here, I invited the heads of the monaſtery to partake of my dinner, but no mode of dreſſing theſe roots, that I was able to direct, was fortunate enough to ſuit their palates: after the firſt mouthful, they all declined eating ſo inſipid a diſh. My man was more ſucceſsful at the meſs of the lay-brothers; for having covered the plate with oiled butter, mixed with a ſtrong ſeaſoning of pimento and garlick, his cookery met with univerſal applauſe.

I had intended to have devoted a day to the ruins of Hipponium or Valentia, ſituated at a place called Caſtello di Bivona, about ſix miles weſt of Monteleone, but the friars aſſured me I ſhould find nothing to repay me for my trouble; that ſome vaults and ſubterraneous paſſages were the only veſtiges of antiquity remaining; for that Earl Roger had carried away to his great church of la Trinita at Mileto all the columns belonging to the temple of Proſerpine; that ſome pillars of fine marble had been dug

up within the memory of man, and removed they knew not whither. * Hipponium was a

* Cluverius is of opinion that Hipponium ſtood at Monteleone; and that Bivona was only its emporium, or port.

* Nummi Hipponienſes.

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. mul. diad.—Duplex cornucopiæ.
2. Idem cap. CÆSAR DICT. PERP.—Duplex cornuc. tæde VALENTIA.

Ex Ære.

1. Cap. Jovis ΔΙΟΣ—Vas cum ſtella et caduceo ΙΠΠΩΝΙΕΩΝ.
2. Cap. Apoll.—Minerva ſtans d. cor. s. haſt. ten. ΑΑΝΔΙΝΑ ΙΠΠΩΝΙΕΩΝ.
3. Cap. mul.—Cornuc. et caduc. ΙΠΠΩΝΙΕΩΝ.
4. Cap. mul. OC ΑΑΝΔΙΝΑ—Mulier ſedens.
5. Cap. Pallad. gal.—Victoria alat. ſtans d. laur. s. bacul. t. ΙΠΠΩΝΙΕΩΝ.
6. Cap. id. L. CORANI C. NVMI Q.—Cornuc. cum fulmine VALENTIA.
7. Cap. muliebre S—Duplex cornu ſtella S. VALENTIA.
8. Cap. Jov. I.—Fulmen VALENTIA.
9. Cap. Palladis gal. et globuli—Noctua 4 glob. ſtella VALENTIA.
10. Cap. Apoll. 2 glob.—Lyra VALENTIA.
11. Cap. Herculis 3 glob.—Duplex clava 3 glob. ſtella VALENTIA.

ſettle-

ſettlement made by the Locrians, and afterwards a colony of the Romans, by the name of Vibo Valentia. It is not an idle preſumption to ſuppoſe that there was in it a temple dedicated to Proſerpine; for tradition, and many paſſages of ancient poets pretend that the fair daughter of Ceres was wont to paſs over from Sicily to the delightful plain of Hipponium to gather the flowers that ſpontaneouſly cloath its fertile ſurface, infinitely better ſituated for thoſe tender productions of nature than the bleak rocks of Enna. Agathocles was ſome time in poſſeſſion of Hipponium, and made it a ſtation for his fleet; nothing is more likely than that he or his admirals ſhould erect a temple in honour of the favorite goddeſs of their nation. This is the place which Cicero came to, when he abſurdly quitted Rome, and fled from the attack of Clodius, inſtead of remaining in the city to juſtify his conduct during his conſulſhip, and confound his enemies.

SECTION

SECTION LXII.

THE account of its preſent ſtate was ſo diſcouraging, that I relinquiſhed the project of viſiting it; and next morning roſe with the lark to purſue my journey. The road, which continued to be ſmooth and dry, lay acroſs a chain of beautiful hills, overlooking the rich valley and romantic village of St. Onofrio, half hidden in the woods. On the coaſt I deſcried the town and fortreſs of Lo Pizzo, belonging to the dukes of Infantado, which was built to repreſs the inſolence of the pirates that infeſted the gulf; but if I am rightly informed, the preſent inhabitants of the place are themſelves the moſt lawleſs, ferocious ſet of people in the whole province; there is a valuable tunny fiſhery belonging to it.

Upon leaving the hills, we croſſed the river Angitola, which ſtill retains the name given it in

in Antonine's Itinerary. There was little water in the bed; but its breadth and huge heaps of ſtones ſhew to what a dangerous height it riſes in rainy ſeaſons. In this plain Alphonſus the Second, while duke of Calabria, erected large ſugar mills, and filled the level banks of the river with plantations of canes; this prince, though no great patron of elegant literature, was a ſtrenuous encourager of arts, manufactures, and agriculture; and we do him great injuſtice when we conſider his character only in a political light, for there he will appear a ſanguinary deſtroyer rather than a protector of his people; his neglect of learned men has contributed greatly to darken the colours with which hiſtorians have painted his portrait. Upon his abdication theſe eſtabliſhments fell to ruin; a ſeries of civil contentions, that frequently made this province their ſcene of action, nipped in the bud all ſeeds of commercial induſtry, and therefore it is not ſurpriſing that ſuch works as theſe ſhould be utterly deſtroyed.

We

We travelled ſome miles near the ſea through a marſhy country. It is ſtocked with ſwine, of which I ſaw many very large herds attended each by one or two youths: they conduct their hogs by the ſound of a great bagpipe, playing juſt what notes their imagination ſuggeſts. The excentric wildneſs of their muſick, their ſimple attire, long ſhaggy locks, and unconcerned vacant countenances, gave me the idea of beings as near the ſtate of primitive nature as any ſavage in the moſt unfrequented deſerts of the globe. I am perſuaded the Calabrian ſwineherds of theſe days are exact copies of the ancient ones; and alſo that their mode of managing the ſtubborn animals entruſted to their care has been tranſmitted to them by a regular tradition: Polybius, who was an exact obſerver, ſays, that the Italians do not pen their ſwine up in ſties, but lead them abroad to ſeek provender on the waſte and in the foreſt; the keeper does not, as in Greece, follow and whip them on, but walks before them, and occaſionally ſounds

an

an inſtrument to call them forward; the ſwine keep near, and are perfectly well acquainted with its note; and even when by accident different herds are mixed together, one company of hogs will, at the blowing of their leader's horn, ſeparate from the ſtrangers, and with great impetuoſity flock to their ſtandard. I ſaw this very circumſtance happen as I rode up to the Fondaco del * Fico, where we baited. I dined at the door of this ſolitary inn, under the ſhade of a venerable cork-tree, and from my ſeat enjoyed a view of the whole gulf; between it and the road is a ſwamp full of ponds that abound with water-fowl. Behind the houſe ends a foreſt of oaks and cork-trees, which covers a great part of the plain and of the Apennine,

* I take this to be the Fundus Sicæ, from which Cicero dates ſome of his letters to Atticus, during his exile. The ſituation correſponds with his route, and the preſent name bears a greater reſemblance to the ancient one than thoſe of many places fixed by topographers from a ſimilarity of ſound, as the ſituations of former towns.

ſur-

ſurrounding a rich corn country, diverſified with patches of olive-yards.

After dinner I paſſed along the ſkirts of theſe woodlands, in which I ſaw much well-grown timber, to the banks of the Amato, * a river that ſpreads itſelf over a large flat in fifty channels; it would overflow a ſtill greater extent of country, if its devaſtations were not ſtopped by high cliffs on each ſide of its bed. In bad weather this paſs is eſteemed very dangerous, as the waters are of a muddy white colour, and the bed full of deep holes worn in the clay, which a ſtranger has no ſuſpicion of; the river was white when I croſſed it, though no rain had fallen for ſome weeks, and no ſnow appeared on the mountains where it takes its riſe: I therefore imagine this is the conſtant and natural hue of its ſtreams. Our guides got up behind us to paſs the river, and with extraordinary apprehenſion and vociferation pointed out to each horſeman the preciſe direction he was to follow;

* Anciently, Lametus.

and,

and, by a due attention to their inſtructions, I and one of the ſervants traverſed the plain without accident; the other, by his own aukwardneſs, or the indocility of his horſe, miſſed the track, and plunged over-head in a deep but narrow pool, out of which he crawled, without any miſchief, but a thorough wetting.

At this point the chain of the Apennines that divides Italy lengthwiſe from the Punta dell' Armi is ſuddenly broken, and ends in low hills that open an intercourſe between the two ſeas. North of theſe hills a tranſverſal maſs of mountains extends from weſt to eaſt, where the continent of Calabria grows much wider: they communicate with two lines of lofty mountains which fall into them at right angles, and running from them towards the north, ſpread out afterwards ſo as to cover almoſt all the northern provinces of the kingdom. A continuation of theſe lines cuts the Roman ſtate in two, divides Tuſcany from Umbria, and above Bologna, taking a weſtern direction, joins the Pennine

Alps near the frontiers of France; ſo that after paſſing the Amato, I might have travelled to the utmoſt limits of Swizzerland among the mountains without any interruption, but ſome vallies of no importance in ſo large a ſcale.

This is the narroweſt part of Italy, and here the road from Naples by Puglia and Catanzaro croſſes from the ſhore of the Ionic ſea to that of the Mediterranean.

At this paſſage of the Amato we met a company of Greeks of both ſexes belonging to a neighbouring village; their dreſs was remarkably tawdry, with a great deal of red and yellow; the women were much handſomer than the generality of Calabrian females. At the end of twenty-four computed miles we arrived at Nicaſtro, where I was accommodated with a room at the Dominicans. Its neighbourhood is replete with beauties of landſcape.—High, woody mountains ſeem to block up all communication with any country farther north, while an eaſy paſſage opens towards the gulf of Squillace: the

the plain that lies to the ſouth is diverſified in the moſt luxuriant manner with corn fields, plantations of fruit trees, and ever-green groves; the nearer hills, brightened with verdure of many tints, are crowned with white buildings, that ſerve greatly to animate the proſpect.—The town runs partly up a dell, and partly ſpreads itſelf out on the plain, interſected by the rapid wandering ſtreams of a mountain torrent. Theſe ſcenes and the environs of Monteleone equal in beauty the moſt delightful ſpots in Sicily; and upon the whole, I think Calabria has greatly the advantage over that iſland in its general aſpect.—In almoſt all the parts I viſited, Sicily ſuffered from its want of wood and population; while no country abounds more in towns and villages, has a greater variety of culture, and is covered with finer foreſts than South Calabria.

None of the country people or travellers I met on the road from Tropea carried any arms; and yet, if credit is due to the repeated accounts

I was ſtunned with, there is more occaſion for them here than in Sicily, where every body travels armed.

The Calabrian accent is very different from the Sicilian, being more guttural, and fuller of aſpirations.

* The caſtle of Nicaſtro is a romantic ruin, tottering above the bed of a roaring torrent that rolls below in a dark woody dale. Within theſe once ſolid walls, Henry, the rebellious ſon of the emperor Frederick the Second, was long impriſoned; frequent attempts to dethrone his father, and connections with the enemies of the ſtate, juſtified his rigorous confinement; at firſt he was ſhut up with his wife and children in Rocca Felice of Puglia; but was afterwards transferred, for greater ſecurity, to Nicaſtro, and then to the neighbouring city of Martorano,

* This manor was once poſſeſſed by the Marſani, and in the fifteenth century a branch of the Caraccioli had it. It has long been veſted in the houſe of Aquino, princes of Caſtiglione.

where deſpair put an end to his exiſtence; Boccaccio ſays that in a fit of frenzy he forced his horſe to leap over a bridge, and was drowned in the river Savuto.

From the hill above the town the view extends over the whole country; the ſhore is incomparably fine, for at the water edge an eaſy acclivity begins, ſtill riſing in a beautiful wavy line, till it joins the Apennine. At the foot and along the ſlope, which is deeply furrowed with woody vallies, ſeveral towns and hamlets appear. Near that of San Biaggio, are warm baths of great efficacy in many diſeaſes; their ſulphureous quality ſhews the volcanical compoſition of thoſe hills, and the proximity of ſubterraneous fires, which have often contributed towards converting this delicious country into a ſcene of deſolation. Near this town ſtood St. Eufemia, that gave name to the gulf, and, till the year 1638, ranked among the moſt reſpectable towns in the province.—In that fatal year took place a moſt portentous event, which is

feelingly related by father Athanaſius Kircher, an eye witneſs, in the preface to his *Mundus Subterraneus*.

I ſhall here tranſlate part of his narrative for the entertainment of my readers, as it enumerates almoſt every circumſtance that uſually foreruns or attends earthquakes.

"On the 27th of March, 1638, we left the "coaſt of Sicily at day-break; the ſea was un-"uſually agitated, and rolled in horrible whirl-"pools, more eſpecially round the rocks of "Scilla, famous for ſo many ſhip-wrecks; our "minds were ſtruck with terror; but not ours "alone, for the hardieſt mariner ſhuddered at "the ſight. When we happily reached that "part of the ſea which lies between Lipari and "Cape Vaticano, I viewed with great attention "the appearance of Ætna and Stromboli; they "threw out immenſe volumes of ſmoke like "mountains, which, ſpreading over the ſouth-"ern horizon, ſoon hid not only the Lipari "iſlands but all Sicily from our view; the hor-

"ror

"ror of the ſcene was increaſed by ſubterra-
"neous groans and cracks, accompanied with a
"ſtrong ſmell of ſulphur; theſe frightful ſounds
"ſeemed to forebode the cataſtrophe that was
"preparing for Calabria and Sicily. Seized
"with diſmay, we ran for Cape Vaticano, and
"paſſed near Stromboli, without diſcerning that
"iſland, which was involved in impenetrable
"clouds of ſmoke; but our ears were ſtunned
"with loud reports, and our reſpiration im-
"peded by a ſtrong ſulphureous ſtench; though
"all was perfectly ſerene and lulled in the air,
"the ſurface of the ſea was in a boiſterous fer-
"ment, bubbling up like boiling water, and
"the element appeared to undergo moſt unu-
"ſual alterations from its natural ſtate. Who-
"ever has obſerved a pond during a ſhower of
"rain throwing up innumerable bubbles, will
"be able to form a juſt idea of this boiling of
"the ſea. As we drew near to the Cape, the
"ſame dreadful ſymptoms ſtill continuing
"cauſed in me a moſt uncommon oppreſſion of

" ſpirits, and filled me with a kind of prophetic
" feel of the approaching calamity. In this
" agony of mind, I loudly intimated to my
" companions that a violent ſhock of the earth
" was ſpeedily to enſue, and that I dreaded
" much the approach of the Cape, leſt we
" ſhould be buried under the ruins of its cliffs,
" which I foreſaw would be ſeparated from the
" continent, and hurled into the deep. The
" event confirmed my forebodings; for in about
" two hours, as we were afterwards informed, a
" mighty fragment of this promontory was ſepa-
" rated from the land, and, with all the houſes
" upon it, tumbled into the ſea. Meanwhile
" we continued our voyage, and landed ſafe
" and joyful at Tropea, little dreaming that the
" dangers we had eſcaped at ſea were inſignifi-
" cant, compared with thoſe that awaited us at
" land; we were deceived by the placid, clear
" appearance of the heavens; for ſcarcely had I
" paſſed the threſhold of our college, when lo!
" to a dreadful ſubterraneous noiſe like chariots

" rumbling

" rumbling along with the utmoſt velocity,
" ſucceeded ſo violent and horrible a concuſſion
" of the earth, that the college, the city, and
" the rock it ſtands on, ſhook backwards and
" forwards, as in a balance; the ground leaped
" upwards with ſuch force, that from an in-
" ability of keeping my feet I was thrown head-
" long on the floor. As ſoon as I recovered
" myſelf, I fled with precipitation down the hill
" to my boat, and put to ſea. On the next
" day we reached La Rocchetta, though the ſea
" was rough and boiſterous; but when we land-
" ed, the fever of the earth returned with freſh
" fury, and drove us back for ſafety to the
" boat; we rowed on in ſearch of ſome place
" of ſecurity, and ſcarcely had we left the ſpot
" when the whole village of Rocchetta was le-
" velled to the ground, and its inhabitants buried
" under the ruins.

" We landed beyond Lo Pizzo; but there
" our ſituation appeared more ſhocking than
" ever: on one ſide the ſea ran mountains high;

" on

" on the other, nothing was to be heard or ſeen
" but the deſtruction of towns and villages. I
" now caſt an anxious eye back upon Stromboli,
" and found that it burnt with uncommon fury;
" one ſheet of fire covered its whole extent; a
" more dreadful conflagration could no be ſeen.
" And now a dead kind of noiſe, like diſtant
" thunder, crept along the bowels of the earth,
" growing gradually ſtronger and ſtronger, till
" it reached the ſpot beneath our feet; then
" indeed its quakings and noiſes were terrible
" beyond conception; and each man finding his
" feet no longer able to maintain his equili-
" brium, caught at the ſhrubs and twigs on the
" ſhore, leſt, as he expected, his very limbs
" ſhould be disjointed by the various and con-
" trary motions of the baſis he ſtood upon.

" When nature had recovered from this con-
" vulſion; and we roſe again as from the grave
" to look once more up to the light of heaven,
" we caſt our eyes towards the town of Saint
" Eufemia, whither we were bound; but in the

" place

" place where we expected to find it, a dark,
" cloud covered every object; as it diſperſed,
" inſtead of houſes and churches, nothing ap-
" peared but a fetid lake! Though almoſt
" petrified with amazement, we haſtened to ſeek
" ſome ſurvivor who might explain to us the
" phænomenon we beheld; not one was to be
" met with, till at laſt we found a youth ſitting
" on the ſhore, ſtupified with terror; of him
" we enquired the fate of St. Eufemia, but ob-
" tained no anſwer; for fear, grief, and deſpair,
" had bound up his powers of ſpeech, and
" frozen his ſoul!—No kind offers, no ſoothing
" terms we could employ, were able to extort
" a word from him. Overpowered by ſorrow,
" he rejected with loathing the victuals we ten-
" dered; but juſt had courage to extend his
" arm, and point to the place where St. Eufe-
" mia ſtood. Thus dead to conſolation, with
" down-caſt looks, and the countenance of a
" man diſtracted with ſorrow, he walked from
" us, and hid himſelf in the neighbouring
" thicket.

"thicket. We purſued our route through "many places amidſt ſcenes of deſolation; and, "during a courſe of two hundred miles, ſaw "nothing but ruined towns, inhabitants wan-"dering about the open fields; and perſons al-"moſt ſenſeleſs through diſmay."

SECTION LXIII.

THE road over the Apennines was reported to be ſo dangerous, on account of the outlaws and robbers, that however doubtful the authority might appear to me, I thought it more adviſeable to yield to the perſuaſions of thoſe I conſulted, than run any hazards by raſhneſs and obſtinacy. I therefore applied to the commanding officer for two ſoldiers of the regiment of Fucilieri di Campagna to eſcort me to Coſenza; this is a corps of light infantry, armed and dreſt after the faſhion of the Catalo-

nian

nian miquelets; their uniform is yellow, their accoutrements light, and fit for deſultory attacks; their perſons well-choſen, and proper for the duty. During the journey they entertained me with their feats and thoſe of their fellow-ſoldiers, and aſſured me that I ſhould enjoy perfect ſecurity in their company, as no banditti dared to face them; or if they did, could eſcape from their fury. I was not the dupe of theſe bravadoes, being convinced that the outlaws have ſimilar anecdotes to relate to the diſparagement of the fucilieri. Indeed, if theſe ſoldiers are of any ſervice to travellers, it muſt ariſe from the terror their name inſpires, and the natural timidity that ſo often overcomes a man when he feels himſelf expoſed to the reſentment of offended laws; and certainly not from their watchfulneſs, or military method of proceeding; ſometimes they loitered behind out of my ſight; at others, gave their guns to the men on foot, and rode behind the ſervants; we were undoubtedly open to an attack at every hour

hour of the day, if any thieves had been lurking near the road, and thought us a prize worth their attempting.

I left Nicaſtro before it was light on account of the great diſtance from Coſenza, and the exceſſive badneſs of the road. We climbed up the mountain directly north of the town, and entered a thick foreſt; the trees near the plain are oaks, and above them cheſnuts. As the dawn began to brighten by the time I reached the ſummit, I halted to relieve the horſes, and to enjoy the view; when the light grew ſufficiently ſtrong to ſhew the landſcape diſtinctly, it diſplayed a ſcene of exquiſite beauty: the mountains advance in a gentle curve on each ſide, embracing a plain enriched and variegated with the choiceſt products of nature; a chain of leſs elevated mountains runs in a perpendicular line due ſouth, riſing by degrees till it loſes itſelf in the ſnowy peaks of Aſpramonte. The Ionian ſea appeared through the intervals between the hills, and ſtrongly reflected the rays

of

of the riſing ſun, while the Mediterranean was yet involved in the laſt gloom of departing night, rapidly edging off on the approach of the ſun-beams. Nothing but the conſideration of the long journey I had to accompliſh before night, could have torn me ſo ſoon from a ſpot where ſo uncommon and delightful a picture was exhibited.

During a ride of fifteen miles we alternately clambered up and ſlid down mountains after mountains through a tract of wood where the eye diſcerned no bounds. The timber is of a great ſize; ſome large openings in the foreſt are ploughed, but I ſaw no habitations, therefore ſuppoſe the huſbandmen come from villages to till them. The ſurface of theſe mountains is a mixture of ſandy loam and rotted vegetables; the ſtony ſtrata underneath a micacious ſhivery ſlate; in many parts ſtrong traces of volcanical operations preſent themſelves even to a haſty obſerver. The higheſt parts of this wild mountainous country had a ſlight covering of ſnow,

which grows thicker towards the north-eaſt, where the mountains riſe that are called La Sila, known in antiquity by the name of the Brutian foreſt. Amidſt the maſſes of ſnow I could diſtinguiſh large woods of pines or firs, which I conjectured by their form and dark hue to be of the ſilver kind. This foreſt covers a ſurface of two hundred miles in circumference; from hence Hiero, king of Syracuſe, and after him, the Romans drew their maſts and other timber for ſhipping; as ample a ſupply might ſtill be furniſhed by the ſame foreſts, if required, but, except in turpentine and fuel, little benefit is derived from theſe extenſive woods.

About noon we reached the ſummit of the moſt elevated point that lay in our route, and deſcended again for a long ſpace of time through wide groves of lofty cheſnut-trees; the branches met at top, and formed a thick canopy over our heads, while the bareneſs of their tall trunks, and the want of underwood, gave full ſcope to the eye to wander on all ſides, but without

without catching the leaſt glimmering of light beyond the wood. Sometimes we ſuddenly came to a break in the foreſt, where a view opened upon us over bold mountains, woody vales, towns, villages, and a great extent of the Mediterranean ſea. This change from gloom to light was frequently repeated, and always with new charms.

At laſt we came to a deep narrow dell, through which the river Savuto ruſhes furiouſly among rocks and precipices: the difficulties of this paſſage have been the cauſe of a bridge being thrown over the ſtream, a convenience very uncommon in Calabria. Here I perceived with a great deal of uneaſineſs that one of the ſervants who rode foremoſt had miſſed his road, and was not to be ſeen, though the country was now quite open, being planted with vines. We ſeparated, and filled the foreſt with ſhouts in hopes of making him hear us. While the whole company was diſperſed in ſearch of him, I left my horſe in the valley, and climbed up

the oppoſite rocks in order to diſcover which road he had taken, but to no purpoſe. Being overcome with thirſt, I went down to the river, and was about to drink, when a hoarſe voice called to me with great vehemence; on turning round, I perceived very near me half a dozen ill-looking fellows, and two women ſitting under a rock round a kettle; this appearance was rather alarming, but I ſoon recollected myſelf ſufficiently to know, that if there was any danger, I had then no means of eſcaping from it. I therefore put the beſt face I could upon the matter, and walked up to them to aſk the reaſon of their calling me; one of the men immediately jumped up, and preſenting a ſkin of wine, deſired me to drink of it, for at this ſeaſon of the year the waters of the Savuto are nothing but melted ſnow, and extremely unwholeſome. I accepted the proffered draught, and after a little converſation about himſelf and company, and fruitleſs enquiries concerning my loſt ſervant, tendered him ſome money for the wine,

wine, but he refuſed to take any, and bringing me my horſe, wiſhed me a good journey. Theſe were travelling tinkers, probably gypſies; their looks and dreſs made them very unpleaſant objects to meet with in ſo ſavage and ſolitary a place.

All my attendants being re-aſſembled without having diſcovered where the man had wandered, I proceeded to Rogliano, a town where I propoſed to dine, and to ſtay till I could gain intelligence of him; but juſt as the fucilieri and ſome countrymen were ſallying forth to renew the ſearch, he arrived in a moſt piteous condition. It ſeems he had followed a ſtraight path, which leads to a ford in the river, only uſed in ſummer, and not being much accuſtomed to mountain torrents, he had injudiciouſly plunged into the water in a ſtrong rapid part, much deeper than he expected; there his horſe had fallen, and with great difficulty recovered himſelf ſo as to be able to carry him through to the oppoſite bank, after being repeatedly dipped in

the water. The fright and cold had deprived him for a conſiderable time of every ſenſe, and rendered our ſhouts of no avail; at length, after wandering backwards and forwards along the hill, the horſe had found the high road, and brought him terrified and ſhivering to the town.

Rogliano afforded little proviſion for us or provender for our horſes; all we could procure for them was a ſack of cheſnuts, and for ourſelves ſome hard cheeſe and ſour bread. The cheſnuts of this diſtrict are remarkably ſweet, being gathered from grafted trees.

After dinner we rode eight miles to Coſenza, which from the badneſs of the way I eſteem equivalent to as many leagues; nothing can be worſe; it deſtroyed all the pleaſure I might have taſted from a view of one of the fineſt tracts of land in Europe. As the large timber-trees have ſtifled all underwood, the face of the country reſembles a magnificent park ſurrounded by well-wooded hills and mountains; on every hill is a village or caſale, all depending upon the

juriſdiction of Coſenza, and enjoying a participation of its municipal privileges. The guides eagerly pointed out one of theſe villages called Celico, which they ſaid had the honour of giving birth to Padre Joachino, a great Santo and Savio. I was at a loſs to divine whom they could mean; but learned next day from a monk, that the perſon alluded to was the Abbot Joachim, famous in the hiſtory of the twelfth century for his prophecies and his frequent interference in the politicks of the times. He pretended to have had the knowledge of the Scriptures infuſed into him by miraculous viſions, and to be able to interpret the moſt difficult parts of Sacred Writ; the book of Revelations was his favourite field of enquiry. Our Richard the Firſt ſent for him to Meſſina, in order to queſtion him concerning the event of the expedition he was embarked in againſt Paleſtine; but this acute and free-thinking monarch, who was a diſciple of the Troubadours, and initiated in their ſcience, put ſo many difficult queries to the prophet, that he

was confounded and detected in various contradictory aſſertions; the prelates and courtiers imitated their maſter in ridiculing the viſionary, and ſent him back with diſgrace to his Calabrian convent, where he died in 1202. But it would have been a miracle indeed, if he had wanted believers in that credulous century. However ſlightingly great men and ſtrangers might treat Joachim, his countrymen comforted him by paying the utmoſt deference to his oracles; he is ſtill held among them a mirrour of ſanctity and wiſdom, and ſtrong truſt is repoſed in his prophecies; a book is attributed to him, which contains a regular ſucceſſion of the popes ſince his time down to the day of judgment, marked by epithets characteriſtical of pontiffs yet unborn *. From the badneſs of the clayey road, and

* St. Malachy, archbiſhop of Armagh in the twelfth century, is ſaid to have drawn up the ſame foretelling catalogue, enigmatically deſcribing each future pontiff, according to the order in which he was to fill the chair of St.

and many cauſes of delay, it was very late before I reached Coſenza, the capital of Hither Calabria. I was lodged at the Dominican convent in the ſuburbs, and loaded with attention and civilities. A very heavy rain fell during the whole night and the enſuing day, which induced the horſe-hirers, with whom I had made an agreement as ſoon as I arrived, to recede from their bargain, being apprehenſive that the extraordinary ſtay they ſhould be obliged to make in various places on account of inundations, would reduce their profits in our agreement to nothing. The weather was ſo wet, I could hardly ſteal an hour to walk into the town, but the good fathers kept me conſtant company at

St. Peter. This liſt was invented by ſome members of the conclave held in 1590; it is replete with miſtakes relative to the popes that intervened between the æra of Malachy and the ſixteenth century, and has been moſt awkwardly tortured to make out the popes that have reigned ſince that conclave; but, by a curious effect of chance, Pius the Sixth anſwers to the motto of *Peregrinus Apoſtolicus*, the apoſtolic pilgrim.

home, and being many of them men of education and learning, made me paſs my hours in an agreeable and profitable manner.

SECTION LXIV.

UNDER the uncertainty of being able for ſome time to procure a proper conveyance from Coſenza to Naples by the uſual road, I agreed to accompany two friars the firſt fair day to Paula. They expected to find there a felucca for Naples, and as the wind was now changed, made no doubt of a ſpeedy paſſage thither.

They provided me with a horſe, and were to ſend back a meſſenger for my ſervants, in caſe the bark ſhould be arrived.

The 14th being free from rain, we ventured to ſet out; our ride did not exceed fifteen miles; but the country being mountainous, rendered

our

our motions very ſlow. As ſoon as we came in ſight of the ſea, the proſpects that opened all around were ſuch as gave me reaſon to rejoice in the reſolution I had taken to make this excurſion.

On our arrival at Paula we found that no felucca had been heard of; and the wind and weather looked ſo unpromiſing for a ſea voyage, that I inſtantly renounced the ſcheme, and determined to return to Coſenza on the morrow. The remainder of the day was devoted to the curioſities of Paula, a place famous for the birth of Saint Francis, the founder of an order of mendicant friars called Minims.

He was a peaſant's ſon, and was at firſt treated in his own country with much contempt; but as he was a man not only of an auſtere life, but alſo of a moſt humane, meek diſpoſition of mind, he became in time an object of veneration, and his reputation for ſanctity diffuſed itſelf over Italy, and many foreign countries: Lewis the Eleventh, king of France, who made up in cunning

cunning and ſuperſtition what he wanted in courage and morality, was perſuaded that the interceſſion of this Calabrian hermit would prevail upon the Almighty to prolong his baneful exiſtence. Francis, by order of the pope, though broken with extreme old age, ſuffered himſelf reluctantly to be dragged to the court of France where his ſimplicity afforded an ample fund of ridicule to the profane. He was known by the name of the Bonhomme; the Bonhomme was not however ſo ſimple or ſo falſe as to flatter the king with any hopes of a cure; he bluntly told him he could do his body no good. The monarch, oppreſſed with terror, and a load of accumulated enormities, was obliged to relinquiſh the hopes of life, and try with the Minim's help to make up the beſt accounts he could for the inſpection of the ſtern Judge, before whom he was ſhortly to appear. Francis died at Tours in 1507, and was canonized twelve years after; he ſoon became the favourite ſaint and patron of his native country. The Calabrians continue

to

to have unbounded confidence in his mediation; but their mode of applying to him for favours is extraordinary; they approach his ſtatue with reverential awe, holding in both hands an aſs's halter; this they ſuddenly throw over the head of the ſtatue, and after fixing the ſlip-knot with a ſmart pull, repeat their petition, and leave the rope: I think there was two hundred weight of rope on its ſhoulders when I ſaw it. This founder, who preſcribed the moſt rigorous abſtinence from meat to all his ſpiritual children, and even allowed it but ſparingly to the ſick, purchaſed a ſmall ſtock of pigeons for the uſe of the infirmary: as they are ſeldom killed for that purpoſe, and held as ſacred by all the neighbourhood, theſe birds have in near three centuries multiplied to an incredible degree, and become very ſerious deſtructive nuiſances. They fly in large flocks, and cover the roof of the monaſtery: under the protection of the ſaint they enjoy the moſt undiſturbed tranquillity; the common people believe that ſeveral raſh

ſportſ-

ſportſmen and greedy cooks, who have dared to lay their ſacrilegious hands on theſe doves, have been puniſhed in a moſt ſevere miraculous manner; ſome farmers go ſo far as to ſow plots of ground for them, but it is from a ſelfiſh, not from a devout motive; for they are perſuaded that the pigeons of Saint Francis have too much honour to meddle with any ſeed but what is allotted them, unleſs ſuch allotment be neglected to be made for them.

In the kingdom of Naples it is not as in many other parts of Europe, where the lord of the manor has an excluſive right to erect a dove-cote; here every land-holder may build one if he pleaſes, and agree with his neighbours about the damages his flock may commit. I have heard that ſome barons have arrogated the power of prohibiting all perſons to ſhoot them, either out of caprice, or a deſire of preſerving the breed, which in ſome diſtricts is almoſt deſtroyed, becauſe every purchaſer of a royal permit kills all that comes in his way.

Paula belongs to the family of Spinelli, and is ſituated in a moſt romantic country of woodland and cultivated ground. Noble rocky eminences tower above, crowned with aged timber; the coaſt lies boldly expanded at their feet. The convent of Minims ſtands in the ſame wild ſpot where Francis had fixed his original ſolitary cell amidſt caves, and under impending cliffs, out of which a copious ſtream guſhes with great impetuoſity. The bay produces a great quantity of coral.

The friars, being determined to wait for the boat, put me under the care of a lay-brother, who was going to Coſenza. We travelled with only one horſe betwixt us, and therefore rode by turns; but about five miles from Paula an accident ſeparated us in the middle of a wood, and it was lucky for me that it was my turn to ride, or otherwiſe I muſt have walked to Coſenza. The friar had upon our ſetting out begun a relation of the cruel deeds of ſome renowned robbers of South Calabria, which I liſtened to with

with particular attention, as I found a difficulty in comprehending his provincial dialect. Thus abſorbed in narrative we were purſuing our journey along a winding hollow way, ſhaded by the twiſted roots of aged oaks that almoſt met over our heads, when behold at the turn of the road a man armed with gun and piſtols ſtarted ſuddenly upon us. My companion, whoſe imagination was at that moment diſturbed with the idea of the barbarities he was deſcribing, gave a loud ſhriek, darted into the wood, and inſtantly diſappeared, leaving me to the mercy of the aſſaſſin. I had not time to be much terrified, for the man immediately let me know he was only a ſbirro of a neighbouring baron returning from Paula. We endeavoured to call back the lay-brother, but he either never heard us, or did not chuſe to truſt himſelf in our company; ſo having loſt all hopes of finding him, I continued my journey with the guard, who eſcorted me to a hamlet, from whence I had a ſight of Coſenza, and there left me, as I was no longer

in

in any danger of loſing my way. On my arrival at the convent, I found horſes had been proviſionally engaged to carry me in four days to Evoli.

SECTION LXV.

COSENZA, now the ſee of an archbiſhop, and reſidence of the *preſide* or governor of the province, was the capital of the Brutian ſtate, and of ſome conſequence during the ſecond Punic war. The Saracens reduced it to aſhes in the tenth century, but by the munificence of its prelates it ſoon recovered from the calamity. Lewis the Third of Anjou, adopted by Joan the Second, died here in 1434, and lies buried in the metropolitan church. He was a prince of a mild unambitious diſpoſition, though not deficient in courage or military abilities; he bore with patience the caprices of the

old queen, and the inſults of her wicked favourites, and when he died, was ſincerely regretted by all ranks of people: even Joan herſelf, though her feelings were deadened by vicious habits, and the imbecillity of age, ſhed tears at his premature fate; but grief was of momentary duration in her callous ſoul. The Calabrians were particularly affected with the loſs of ſo virtuous and benevolent a maſter, under whoſe adminiſtration their province had enjoyed uncommon happineſs; happineſs of double value from a compariſon with the horrors of civil war and diſcord ſtill freſh in their memories. The goodneſs of Lewis was not ſoon forgotten, but remained long deeply impreſſed in the hearts of the natives, who ever after retained a partiality for the Angevine and French cauſe. This attachment excited the vengeance of the Arragonian party, who committed ſhocking outrages at Coſenza in the year 1457. Earthquakes have been very deſtructive here. The number of its inhabitants is ſaid in ſome printed

lists

liſts to reach eighteen thouſand; but, from the information I procured, it does not much exceed half that quantity.

Coſenza is pleaſantly ſituated, about twelve miles from the Mediterranean ſea, at the ſouthern extremity of a ſpacious plain, which, upon a conſiderable breadth, extends above twenty miles down the courſe of the river Crati. The city ſtands upon ſeven hills, which form part of its armorial coat: at the foot of the declivity the Crati, coming from the eaſtern vallies of the Sila, receives the waters of the Baſiento; this torrent is remarkable for containing within its boſom the bones of Alaric, the mighty leader of the Viſigoths. Here in 422 death put a period to his victories, and ſaved mankind from many intended ravages; his faithful ſoldiers, having no wiſh of ſettling in this country, and fearful, leſt after their departure any indignity ſhould be offered to the relics of their hero, turned off the waters of the Baſiento, and in the middle of its bed dug a deep grave, in which

they depoſited his body, with many rich trophies and ſpoils of conquered nations. The waters were then let into their former channel; the workmen who had been employed were put to death, and by theſe means the tomb of Alaric remains hidden perhaps for ever from human ſight and inſult.

From an ancient caſtle on the higheſt part of the hills the proſpect is very grand over the mountains on three ſides, and down the plain on the other. The low grounds are fertile in an eminent degree; but from their ſituation and frequent waterings exhale vapours in ſummer that conſtitute a *Mal'Aria* very productive of fevers.

There is a viſible difference in the dreſs and manners of the Two Calabrias: the inhabitants of the ſouth part reſemble the Sicilians; and, like them, the men wear bonnets; north of Rogliano, the boundary of the provinces, hats are univerſally worn. A learned friend of mine, a native of Italy, and long reſident in various

parts

parts of the Two Sicilies, thinks the Sicilians even now betray ſtrong marks in their character of their ancient connections with the Africans; that the North Calabreſe have a great deal of German ſolidity in their diſpoſition, ariſing perhaps from colonies tranſplanted thither by the Swabian princes: he finds the moſt evident traces of Grecian manners and turn of mind in the ſouthern Calabreſe, and in the Neapolitans; but much more evident in the latter. He looks upon the Abruzzeſe as little altered from the appearance and character of their Samnite anceſtors, except the ſlight change operated by a mixture of Lombard blood.

Though Calabria is in bad repute as to ſafety for travellers, the people ſeem perfectly honeſt towards one another; for their houſes have no bolts or bars to the door; and, during the owner's abſence, are left to the mercy of every paſſenger.

The Dominicans were very unwilling to let me depart without a guard of fucilieri; but as

I had experienced their inutility, I poſitively refuſed them. However, at the earneſt requeſt of my hoſts, I accepted of the loan of two muſkets and two ſabres, which the guide was to bring back. The many accounts of robberies and murders I had received gave me ſome degree of uneaſineſs, and made me make the beſt diſpoſition I could in caſe of an attack. The guide went firſt, armed with one of the guns, the two ſervants formed the centre with the ſwords, and I brought up the rear with the reſt of the arms: before the ſun had riſen an hour, our apprehenſions vaniſhed entirely, and we rode along the charming plain without any further attention to our military arrangements.

We travelled ſix miles through a fruitful country covered with corn, vines, and mulberry-trees, incloſed all round by beautiful hills, the city of Coſenza and the white peaks of the Sila ſhutting in the ſcene behind us: the Crati flowed on our right hand at the foot of a chain of hills, but hidden from our ſight by a thick fringe of

wood; we then entered a thicket, and forded the river. It was rapid and clear notwithſtanding the preceding rains, and came up to the horſe's girth; eight ſturdy fellows attended on the ſhore, and ſtripping ſtark-naked walked through the water on each ſide of every horſe, in order to point out the ſafeſt paſſage, and to prevent the violence of the current from carrying it too far down the ſtream: about a mile lower we repaſſed the Crati in the ſame cautious manner. The eminences on both ſides of the plain are populous and well-wooded; the towns ſtand on the higheſt points; among the principal ones in view towards the Mediterranean are Montalto, famous for a native ſalt mine *; La Regina, ſo called from Margaret, the

* The ſalt at this place is cut out of a ſolid maſs, and forced down by damming up water above, and then letting it fall upon it with violence; a method called *huſhing* in the lead mines in ſome parts of England. This proceſs is very detrimental to the grounds that lie below the hill.

the wife of king Lewis of Anjou, having reſided there; and S. Marco, an epiſcopal city.

On the eaſtern hills is Biſignano, which gives the title of prince to the laſt remaining branch of the antient houſe of Sanſeverino, long the leader in all civil conteſts, and often the diſpoſer

I take one of theſe towns to be Pandoſia, where Alexander, king of the Moloſſians, was ſlain by ſome Lucanian exiles, as he was croſſing the river Acheron, after the defeat of his army.

The face of the country, and its vicinity to the limits of Brutium and Lucania, juſtify the conjecture. I have in my poſſeſſion two ſmall gold coins found in theſe plains, that ſeem to have been ſtruck by that prince—*Caput radiatum à fronte. Fulmen* ΑΔΕΞ.

There are ſome coins of Greek type ſtruck at Pandoſia, which ſome medalliſts have attributed to a city of the ſame name in Epirus.

Ex Argento.

1. Cap. Solis à fronte—Tripus ΠΑΝΔΩΣΙΕΩΝ.
2. In tab. quadr. Bos cap. reflexo ΓΑΝΔΟ—Tripus ΟΡΟ. I think this belongs to Croton.
3. Cap. Cybeles turrit. ΠΑΝΔΩΣΙΕΩΝ.—Cap. Martis ΠΑΝΔΩΣΙΕΩΝ.

of

of the Neapolitan crown. This family begins its pedigree with one Trogiſius of Normandy, to whom Robert Guiſcard gave in 1080 the lordſhip of S. Severino in the principality of Salerno. His deſcendants acquired prodigious wealth, and at different periods poſſeſſed half the fiefs in the kingdom, with every kind of honourable titles. Unfortunately for them, they enliſted under the papal banner in oppoſition to their ſovereign Frederick the Swabian; for which defection they were perſecuted with implacable vengeance. One ſingle boy eſcaped from the maſſacre of all his kindred, and lived to be the ſecond founder as it were of his race; after many years exile, he re-entered the kingdom with the army of the count of Provence; and, at the battle of Benevento, had the bloody ſhirt in which his father was ſlain carried before him as a banner for his partiſans. Charles the Firſt reſtored him to all his honours and eſtates, and even added more to the already huge amount; theſe benefits attached the Sanſeveri-

nos to the houſe of Anjou, and rendered them to the laſt the mortal enemies of the rival family of Arragon. With the powerful protection of the monarch they attained the higheſt honours of the ſtate, and roſe to a degree of preponderance that was ſcarcely inferior to that of the ſovereign. Under Joan the Firſt their diſputes with the Marſani involved Naples in a civil war, which ended by the deſtruction of their adverſaries. Ladiſlaus proved their bitter enemy in revenge for their adherence to the faction of Anjou; but, during the reign of his ſiſter, they regained their conſequence; from Ferdinand the Firſt they extorted a grant of the principality of Salerno, but not thinking themſelves bound by the preſent, preſerved in their hearts a firm attachment to the French party, and always appeared to bear the Spaniſh yoke with impatience. Ferrante, the laſt prince of Salerno, rebelled againſt the emperor Charles the Fifth, was outlawed, and died in exile. The branch of Biſignano alſo failed in 1606, and great

great litigations enſued: at length the eſtates were divided by a compromiſe, and Biſignano was aſſigned to a diſtant male relation; the remainder of the inheritance being adjudged to ſome female kinſwomen.

After a journey of twenty-two miles down the plain without having even a hillock to aſcend, we ſtopped for dinner at a poor ſolitary public-houſe, not far from the town of Tarſia. This place belongs to the Spinelli, and ſtands high among ſome very bare hills north of the river. Here the Crati turns ſuddenly to the eaſt, and after forcing its way through a paſs in the mountains, runs acroſs the wide plain of Sybaris to the gulf of Tarento.

After dinner we altered our courſe, and travelled in an oblique line towards the gulf of Policaſtro over ſome high land, from whence I enjoyed many fine views of the coaſt of Corigliano. We ſoon after entered an immenſe foreſt that covers a flat country incloſed with woody hills, ſtudded with villages. Oak predominates,

dominates, but grows feebly, and deſerves the name of coppice-wood, not timber: numerous flocks of ſheep are fed here; but the ſhepherds have no dwellings in theſe plains: their proviſions are brought upon mules from their abodes many miles diſtant. They conduct their flocks by the ſound of a bagpipe, the ſame inſtrument with which ſome of them repair to Naples at Chriſtmas.

Leaving this woodland tract, we entered the higher mountains; amongſt them Monte Pollino diſtinguiſhed itſelf by the deep ſnow with which its ſummit was yet covered. It is renowned for the excellency of its paſturage, and for the Caggiocavallo cheeſe of its diſtrict, eſteemed the beſt in the kingdom; this cheeſe is made in an oblong form, not unlike a horſe's head, draws out like ſilk, and is much reliſhed by the natives, but has a ſtrong acrid taſte very unpleaſant to ſtrangers. No part of the country produces a greater variety of rare plants; here is found in abundance the root of muſhrooms, com-

commonly called *fungifer lapis*; it is not a ſtone, but a number of different particles of ſtones, wood, and marle, cemented together by a larger quantity of a black rich earth: this maſs, if covered with a little freſh ſoil, and watered with warm water, will produce a muſhroom in a few days; I have ſeveral large ſpecimens in my poſſeſſion. On the moſt elevated part of this mountainous country we paſſed through S. Baſile, a ſettlement of Albanian Greeks, which overlooks the delightful vale and large burgh of Caſtrovillari. Every thing here bears the marks of a volcanical origin; the road is a heap of cinders, the large and ſmall eminences in view are all of a conical ſhape, double-pointed, and broken down on one ſide: one of the largeſt is very particularly characterized; it ſtands quite inſulated, is regularly ſloped on each flank, ſhagged at the ſummit, and from top to bottom cloathed with thick woods: it is not poſſible to imagine a more beautiful hill. Whoever has viſited the Cumberland lakes, muſt recollect the round

round knoll at the extremity of Ulſewater, called Dunmollin; it is a diminutive copy of the Calabrian mountain I am deſcribing. The ſoil near S. Baſile reſembles the white clay, of which the inſide of the Solfatara di Puzzuoli is compoſed; every ſtone is a mere maſs of lava.

A rough narrow path leads round the mountain into a long valley well-planted and improved, locked in on every ſide by peaked mountains, except to the ſouth, where the handſome volcanic cone juſt mentioned riſes, but without excluding a view of the diſtant country: on the north the ſnowy ridge of Pollino towers above the reſt. Our day's journey ended at Murano *, a large town pleaſantly ſituated on the rapid ſlope of a high hill; my guide procured me an excellent apartment at a friend's houſe, where every thing was warm, clean, and comfortable.

* Murano ſucceſſively belonged to the families of Aquino, Scaglione, and Faſanella; on the forfeiture of the laſt, it was beſtowed by Ferdinand the Firſt upon San ſeverino, prince of Biſignano. It has long been in the poſſeſſion of the Spinelli.

SEC-

SECTION LXVI.

FEB. 17th, after an hour's aſcent by a rocky road called la Rocca perrupata, we entered the Campo Temeſe, a large circular plain encompaſſed by mountains, which are covered with beech-woods. The level was ſown with rye, called in Calabria Germano, becauſe it was brought into the country from Germany; Charles the Fifth, in his progreſs through this province, as he returned from his Mooriſh expedition, taking notice that many large tracts of good land remained unimproved becauſe their elevated ſituation rendered them too cold for wheat, gave orders that a more hardy ſpecies of grain ſhould be imported from the north. To his paternal attention Calabria is indebted for this additional ſupply of food.

In a corner of this amphitheatre is a convent of capuchins, who ſuccour and harbour travel-

lers

lers that happen to be ſurprized by a fall of ſnow, or are benighted in this high and lonely region. The name of the place is derived from the ancient city of Tempſa, but where this city ſtood remains a doubt, whether near St. Eufemia, as Cluverius places it, or rather at Malvito, near St. Marco, where Barrius with much greater probability has fixed it: Strabo ſays it was the neareſt town of conſequence to the Lucanian boundary, and that in its territory a temple was erected to Politas, a companion of Ulyſſes murdered there by the Barbarians; a neighbouring village called Policaſtriello may be thought to retain ſome traces of the name.—The Campo Temeſe was probably the property of the corporation of Tempſa, and was originally, if I may reaſon from analogy and a haſty ſurvey, the crater of a volcano. The decompoſition of its mountainous border has in a courſe of ages raiſed the ſoil of the baſon: the ſcala or paſs by which we entered, was the crack where the lava, and perhaps afterwards the

water, was diſcharged, for moſt craters when they ceaſe to burn, become lakes, till the frail cruſt that holds the contents gives way, and leaves the bottom dry. On the ſurrounding hills holly grows in great abundance; I do not remember to have ſeen it ſouth of this ſpot. At the northern foot of the mountain we paſſed a torrent, and entered the province of Baſilicata. The mountains here are covered with immenſe quantities of fine oak-timber, which is ſuffered to decay with age, without any benefit accruing to mankind from its long ſtanding and valuable properties, except affording acorns for the nouriſhment of innumerable herds of ſwine. The ſea is not above ſix miles off, a trifling diſtance when compared with the advantages that might be derived from the ſale of ſuch ſizeable timber; the vallies are wide enough to admit of a way down to the ſhore in ſummer. The expence would no doubt be conſiderable, but the object well deſerves ſuch an exertion; for all the dock-yards in Europe might be ſupplied from

from the foreſts of this peninſula, and I ſee no reaſon to doubt of the compactneſs and ſoundneſs of the wood. General Acton, ſecretary of ſtate for the marine department of Naples, has turned his views this way, and cut ſome wood in the ſouthern extremity of Calabria for the uſe of the royal navy; but the natives are averſe to theſe projects, as the weight of felling and tranſporting the timber falls very hard upon them, without their receiving what they deem a proper equivalent for their ſevere labour, great loſs of time, and deſtruction to their draught cattle. As the miniſter cut the above-mentioned, woods by way of eſſay, if the experiment anſwers, he will no doubt proceed hereafter upon a regular plan, in which the intereſts of the publick and of individuals will be conſulted; without ſuch a fair and wiſe arrangement, I am certain the expence of carrying on this work will be ſo enormous as to ruin it; a thouſand artificial obſtacles will be thrown in the way; incredible waſte and unavoidable fraud will be daily

daily committed. I ſay nothing of the injuſtice and oppreſſion that would attend a partial mode of conducting the undertaking, becauſe General Acton, who is deſcended from Engliſh anceſtors, has too great an idea of general liberty and the rights of mankind, to entertain a thought of enriching one part of the community at the expence of the other.

The women of theſe mountains wear red veils; their ſtockings, and indeed moſt of their apparel is of the ſame colour, which I believe is dyed with a bolar earth, that appears in the ſides of many broken banks near the road: it is a coarſe colour approaching to brown.

We paſſed through La Retonda, a town belonging to the prince of Biſignano; it is moſt ſingularly placed on the ſummit of a rock. The houſes ſeem to cling all round it in cluſters, as barnacles do upon a ſtone. The view from it northward is amazingly grand over the vale of St. Martino, watered by the river Lao. A long chain of mountains, riſing rapidly from both

ſeas, extends from hence over all the central provinces. The banks of the river are populous and well cultivated. This valley is thought by ſome experienced obſervers of the alterations and various forms aſſumed by nature in conſequence of earthquakes, to have been at ſome diſtant period of time a large lake; which was created by the mountains on each ſide crumbling into the narrow dale, and ſtopping the courſe of the river, till a ſubſequent ſhock gave liberty to the confined waters, and left only faint traces of the wear that had dammed up the paſſage. Viſible marks of ſuch revolutions have frequently occurred to me in my travels through mountainous countries.

The deſcent from La Retonda was very bad, wet, and narrow. A ſtring of loaded mules, that we met coming up the mountain, threw us into great confuſion and danger; for thoſe obſtinate animals will neither ſtop nor give way eaſily, and, for want of room, we found it very difficult to paſs them.

Having

Having croſſed the Lao, we rode through Caſtelluccio, a double town; one part is agreeably ſituated on a rocky eminence, with a declivity that ſhews all the houſes, as if they were upon terraces; the other part is built at its foot, amidſt a delightful tract of fields, rich in vines and fruit-trees, and bounded by rows of towering oaks; each vineyard has two large tubs under a penthouſe, where its proprietor makes his own vintage ſeparately. The hedges glowed with the firſt flowers of ſpring, and the little birds announced on all ſides, by their gay concerts, the approach of that all-reviving ſeaſon. We ſoon after entered another ſpacious foreſt, with timber ſtill larger than that I ſaw before; the ride through theſe venerable groves over very uneven ground afforded a moſt admirable variety of proſpect; high up the mountain, at the foot of a rugged peak, we paſſed cloſe to a ſmall deep lake, fed by a ſtrong runner from above, but I could not diſcover any vent for the diſcharge of the waters; I ſuppoſe they flow

under ground for ſome time, till they burſt out at the head of a valley, and give birth to a rivulet.

I dined at Lauria which is alſo a double town; The high part ſtands upon a lofty precipice immediately over the low one; by their ſituation, both are expoſed to fatal accidents; one from the danger of loſing its foundation, the other from the poſſibility of the cliffs ſplitting and overwhelming it; ſuch events have ſometimes happened. When the idea of this peril does not occur, it is ſcarcely poſſible to conceive a more delightful poſition; the views are ſublime, for it overlooks a world of well-wooded mountains, numberleſs narrow but fertile vales, and a great part of the gulf of Policaſtro. Our evening journey was extremely diſagreeable, as it lay among woods and deep hollows, and at laſt along the bed of a torrent full of large ſtones and holes that endangered our necks at every ſtep. The horſes were good, and accuſtomed to the roads, and brought us ſafe to

Lagonero,

Lagonero, though we had travelled the laſt two hours in utter darkneſs.

Lagonero takes its name from a large moraſs that has been long drained; the vapours of it were almoſt peſtilential. The country is deſolate and poor, but the continual thoroughfare gives life to the town, and enables about eight thouſand people to earn a comfortable maintenance by a variety of trades. I lodged at a very good inn in a room furniſhed with as much magnificence as a palace. The elbow-chair and bed were of crimſon damaſk, laced with gold, bought many years ago at the ſale of a cardinal who died on the road. A large *braſiero* or pan of coals placed in the middle of my room, a good ſupper, and excellent bed, made amends for a tedious, dark, and cold ride: I found myſelf in a high atmoſphere, and felt a degree of cold which I had not experienced before in my whole tour. The road next morning was execrable, through a hilly foreſt amidſt mountains tipped with ſnow. Beech abounds here, generally

growing very high up the mountain: in leſs elevated places evergreens and common oak are more plentiful; of the laſt ſort the groves are admirable, but half the trees are ruined by lopping; the ground is ſtrewed with trunks fallen, and decayed merely through age.

Upon leaving the woods we followed the courſe of the river of Caſalnuovo down a narrow defile, till it brought us out into the great vale of Diano, near twenty miles in length. Its ſhape reſembles a ſhuttle, narrow at both ends, and wide in the middle; the mountains on each ſide gradually opening from the extremities, while the river Negro, the ancient Tanager, divides it in its whole length. The fertility of this vale is renowned throughout the kingdom, but its unwholeſomeneſs in ſummer takes off from its merit. Corn and flax cover the ground as long as it keeps a level high enough to be out of the power of inundation; lower down, rice is cultivated, as the rich depth of ſoil and the

the copious ſupplies of water ruſhing on all ſides from the hills, or drawn from the river, encourage the farmers to raiſe this plant in preference to any other. On the points and eminences round the plain are many towns that give additional ſpirit to this charming landſcape; La Padula is one of its grand features; an ancient caſtle on a round detached hill, ſome tall cypreſſes riſing up among the buildings on the ſlope, and at the foot an immenſe monaſtery of Carthuſians, form a very noble maſs of objects. This was once an eſtate of the Sanſeverini, but in 1308 one of the family founded the convent, and aſſigned this lordſhip and ſome others for its ſupport. The wealth of theſe monks has been much increaſed ſince that time by donations and œconomy; the prior is treated like a prince, and rules his vaſſals with the double ſway of feudal authority and religious influence. The monaſtery is one of the largeſt and grandeſt of the order of St. Bruno.

I dined at La Sala, an extenſive town on the ſkirts of the plain; the profuſion of white marble ſurpriſed me; the fountains, watering-troughs, window and door-caſes, even the ſteps into the houſes, are of an even-grained clear marble, which appeared to me to be antique. I ſuppoſe theſe are fragments of the buildings that anciently compoſed an epiſcopal city called Marcelliana—it muſt have ſtood near La Sala.

The valley now grew again contracted, and near La Polla, where I ſlept, ſeems almoſt ſhut up. This is a town of three thouſand inhabitants, belongs to the Capeci, and was almoſt deſtroyed by an earthquake in the ſixteenth century. The inn is on the oppoſite ſide of the river, and at it is collected the toll for paſſing from one province to another. In the wall is inſerted an inſcription, which by its ſtyle appears to belong to the time of the Roman republick. Gruter, and many other collectors of inſcriptions have copied it, all varying from each

each other, and from the original *. It was made to commemorate the public actions of a Prætor, whoſe name does not appear, but was probably Manius Aquilius; he made or repaired the conſular road from Capua to Reggio, three hundred and twenty-four miles, built bridges, placed mile ſtones and horſeblocks,

* VIAM FECEI A REGIO AD CAPVAM ET
IN EA VIA PONTEIS OMNEIS MILLIARIOS
TABELLARIOSQVE POSEIVEI HINCE SVNT
NOVCERIAM MEILIALI CAPVAM XXCIII
MVRANVM LXXIIII COSENTIAM CXXIII
VALENTIAM CLXXX AD FRETVM AD
STATVAM CCXXXI REGIVM CCXXXVI
SVMA AF CAPVA: REGIVM MEILIA CCCXXIIII
ET EIDEM PRÆTOR IN
SICILIA FVGITEIVOS ITALICORVM
CONQVÆSEIVEI REDIDEIQVE
HOMINES DCCCCXVI EIDEMQVE
PRIMVS FECEI VT DE AGRO POPLICO
ARATORIBVS CEDERENT PASTORES
FORVM ÆDISQVE POPLICAS HEIC FECEI.

and was alſo the firſt to encourage the diviſion of common paſtures. What a pity it is that ſome ſuch active intelligent miniſter does not ſpring up in Naples, and open proper communications between the different countries that conſtitute the kingdom. Though a Roman magiſtrate, with the treaſure of ſuch a commonwealth and legions of laborious ſoldiers at his diſpoſal, was equal to almoſt any effort, and though the reſources of the kingdom of Naples are ſmall compared with his, ſtill there is ſtrength enough for ſuch beneficial operations; and as the realm enjoys ſuch profound peace, ſome part of the military might here be uſefully employed. The great difficulty lies in deviſing proper methods of ſetting about it, and finding directors men of integrity, equal to the truſt. If the plan were to be executed by the ſervants of the crown, I fear that unleſs they are caſt in a different mould at Naples from that of other courts, the expence would be prodigious, the country oppreſſed, and more ſacrificed to idle

pomp

pomp than to real ſolid utility: if, on the other hand, the making of roads be committed to the feudal lords, it is to be apprehended that a merciful lord will leave the work imperfect, a hard-hearted one will render the burden inſupportable. It appears therefore more adviſable to commiſſion provinces, diſtricts, or townſhips, to make their own roads upon a plan given and ſuperintended by the king's engineers, to prevent delays and frauds, and to cut ſhort all litigations and quarrels. A commiſſion of noblemen has been lately appointed to concert a ſcheme for improving the roads, and a tax of ten per cent. on property laid to defray the expence; but it will be many years before the project be completed. The incredible number of large bridges requiſite to make travelling eaſy at all times in ſo mountainous a country, will abſorb a conſiderable portion of the appropriated revenue, and the want of hard materials in many diſtricts, where the rocks are rather baked

baked clay than ſtone, will be another formidable obſtacle to ſurmount *.

Next morning we reached the bottom of the valley, which is incloſed all round by hills, though low ones; the river loſes itſelf here in ſeveral horizontal apertures in the ground, and oozes through the ſand as through a ſieve †; there is a narrow paſs in one part of the ridge where the waters run over in high floods, when the uſual funnels cannot receive them. Here we paſſed over a very ſteep mountain by a narrow rocky path, ſo ſlippery that it was extremely difficult to avoid falling at every ſtep; on the north ſide the declivity is more than double the extent of that on the ſouthern, and the narrow dell much below the level of the vale of Diano. Here the river Negro again breaks forth in a ſpacious cavern called la Per-

* Between Evoli and Reggio twenty-ſeven bridges of ſeveral arches will be required.

† The place is therefore called La Criva,—a ſieve.

toſa,

toſa, dedicated to St. Michael, who has the ſpecial patronage of all grottos in the kingdom. It is ſuppoſed to be a work of art, or if of nature, aſſiſted at leaſt by the hand of man: the Romans being deſirous of draining the immenſe lake of Diano, as they had done that of Rieti, opened a ſubterraneous paſſage for the river: perhaps the channel was not ſubterraneous at firſt, but from the falling-in of looſe earth became covered. It is impoſſible to follow their operations, for the whole face of things muſt have been changed in the great number of years that have elapſed ſince the diſſolution of their empire *. When the river guſhes forth, it

* In the year, of Rome 483 Curius Dentatus, while Cenſor, opened a canal from lake Velinus, and brought the waters into the Nar at the fall now called le Marmore di Terni. By theſe means he drained a large valley, which became ſoon after one of the moſt fertile and delightful tracts of land in Italy. In the middle ages his works being deſtroyed, and the ſulphureous ſediment hardening into ſtone

it is ſo different from the limpid placid ſtream that ſpreads in a wide ſhallow bed along the level meadows of Diano, that I could hardly believe it was the ſame; for here below it burſts forth with horrid noiſe, rolling before it huge ſtones and broken trunks of trees; its colour is changed to a muddy white, which it contracts in the bowels of the earth by a junction with melted ſnows brought from the mountains, or by paſſing over ſtrata of marle and chalk in its long journey of two miles underground. The road led us down the valley, which is beautifully wooded; it exhibits many points of rural ſcenery that reſemble ſome pictureſque ſpots in our Engliſh gardens, where Nature is indulged in her native wildneſs, but ſubject in a certain degree to the control of art and taſte.

ſtone having blocked up the paſſage, the valley was again overflowed for many ages. After various attempts, it was opened out by order of Clement the Eighth in 1601, under the direction of Fontana.

The waters wind charmingly among the trees, loſe themſelves in thickets to emerge again in open meadows, and turn the wheels of mills ſituated under lofty rocks and impending groves of oak: the vale follows the river to the gulf of Peſto through a huge chaſm in Monte Alburno, a chain of very high mountains. We purſued our journey upon the hills, from which I had a view of numberleſs towns and villages ſcattered over the country; all of them ſituated high to be out of the reach of Malaria. Auletta was the firſt we paſſed near; it is exactly the kind of caſtle, cupola, and habitation embowered high in aged groves, that Pouſſin and Salvator have ſo often introduced in the back grounds of their pictures. Sicignano is another large town in a ſtrange ſituation; it ſtands on a knoll projecting from the ſide of Monte Alburno, and above it riſes a frightful range of bare perpendicular rocks.

We

We travelled fourteen miles upon a clayey road, as bad as the worſt in Sicily; a ſmall quantity of rain that had fallen in the night, had rendered it almoſt impaſſable. I was more fatigued with this ſhort piece of road than I had ever been during the whole preceding journey, and the horſes were ſcarcely able to carry us through. At length theſe clays ended at La Ducheſſa, a hunting rendezvous belonging to the chace of Perſano: it overlooks the Bay of Salerno, the foreſts that extend along the banks of the Silari and the heart of the Apennines; I beheld before me the whole plain, the temples of Pæſtum, and the coaſt of Amalfi as far as Capri. We deſcended through woods and croſſed the Silari upon a magnificent bridge erected by the king of Spain. This fine river was the ancient boundary of Campania, and was celebrated for the property of petrifying or rather incruſting ligneous ſubſtances thrown into its water. Here the bad roads terminate, none

can

can be finer than thoſe that go from hence to Salerno. At Evoli, a large old town on the edge of the plain, I hired a coach and took poſt-horſes to Naples, having compleated a tour by ſea and land of nine hundred and fourteen computed miles.

Itinerary for Sicily and Calabria.

From Naples to	Palermo	200	computed miles.
——	Favarotta	24	——
——	Alcamo	21	——
——	Calatafimi	10	——
——	Caſtelvetrano	18	——
——	Memfrici	15	——
——	Sciacca	12	——
——	Rivera	10	——
——	Siculiana	15	——
——	Girgenti	12	——
——	Palma	12	——
——	Licata	12	——
——	Terranova	18	——
——	Calatagerone	20	——
——	Palagonia	18	——
——	Lentini	15	——
——	Syracuſe	22	——
——	Auguſta	18	——
——	Catania	24	——
——	Giarri	25	——
——	Niſi	24	——
——	Meſſina	18	——
——	Tropea	60	——
——	Monteleone	18	——
——	Nicaſtro	24	——
——	Coſenza and Paula	68	——
——	Murano	40	——
——	Lago nero	36	——
——	Polla	33	——
——	Evoli	24	——
——	Naples	48	——
	Total	914	

JOURNEY

JOURNEY FROM NAPLES TO ROME.

SECTION LXVII.

EARLY in the month of May, 1778, I took my leave of Naples. The road to Averſa is through a rich but confined country. This town, which has ſomething gay and lively in its appearance, was built in 1030, by Ranulph, a leader of the firſt Normans that came into Italy to ſeek their fortunes in the ſervice of the Italian princes. This chieftain knew by experience, that it was impoſſible to guard

againſt the treachery of the Lombards, by whom his troops were employed in war, but looked upon with an evil eye in time of peace, unleſs he obtained a fixed ſettlement, whither they might retire as to a centre upon every emergency; he alſo foreſaw, that while the Normans were obliged to live at random without ſome property of their own, they could never become ſufficiently powerful to form an eſtabliſhment in Italy, which was the object he kept conſtantly in view. He therefore choſe a ſpot near the ruins * of Atella, at the junction of two highways, that gave him a communication with every part of the country, and built a ſmall fortreſs, which from its being oppoſed to Capua, and from his averſion to Pandulph, prince of that city, he called Averſa. Thus did a new ſwarm from the northern hive gain a footing in

* Averſa was not built upon the ruins of Atella, an ancient city of the Oſcans; its ruins are to be ſeen two miles to the ſouth at a place called S. Arpino di Atella.

Italy,

Italy, and added one more to the number of Ultramontane invaders that had ſubdued different parts of this tempting region.

Averſa was burnt to the ground by king Roger, and many years after, it underwent a ſimilar fate by order of Charles of Anjou. Its ancient palace, on the foundation of which a convent has ſince been erected, was frequently the reſidence of the ſovereign, before the murder of Andrew of Hungary, huſband to Joan the Firſt. The imbecillity of this prince had ſuffered his Hungarian attendants, particularly a brutal monk called Friar Robert, to uſurp an abſolute dominion over his mind, and arrogate to themſelves deſpotic authority in all affairs of ſtate, to the excluſion of the princes of the blood-royal, and the great barons of the realm: this conduct bred diſcontents, and led to a conſpiracy formed in 1345, againſt his perſon; his fate was haſtened by the dread the conſpirators were in from his approaching coronation, a ceremony that would conſolidate his power

and endanger the lives of all thoſe that oppoſed the meaſures of his favourites; therefore, on the 8th of September, while he was at Averſa with the whole court, the aſſaſſins contrived to have him called out into an open gallery under pretence of a very preſſing meſſage from Friar Robert, and there they threw a rope round his neck, ſtrangled him, and afterwards caſt his body into the ſtreet. His brother Lewis, king of Hungary, took ample revenge of this murder; but it remains a diſputed point among hiſtorians, whether his wife was or was not privy to the tranſaction; the moſt moderate think her guilty of a connivance at leaſt, for which ſome have apologized by alledging her youth; but this excuſe rather aggravates than leſſens her crime; for although the heart of a perſon further ſtricken in years may be ſuppoſed from long habits of vice and intercourſe with wicked men to have contracted great obduracy, that of a young woman of eighteen ought to glow with the tender feelings natural to her ſex, and

ſhudder

ſhudder at the ſhedding of any blood, much more that of an human creature, that of her huſband.

The cloſe mode of cultivation and the plantations of vine-bearing elms continue from Naples to a mile beyond Averſa; there an open marſhy country begins, in which I ſaw innumerable herds of buffalos grazing. The mountains are ſeen diſtinctly on all ſides, and have a beautiful effect, incloſing the plains.

At ſome diſtance from Averſa I turned to the right to view the remains of the ancient city of Capua; it was ſituated in the heart of the plain, two miles and a half from Modern Capua, and the river Voltorno. A double arcade, ſuppoſed to be a gate, was the firſt piece of antiquity I obſerved; it is in a lighter taſte than moſt ancient arches deſtined for ſuch purpoſes, being higher in proportion to its breadth.

The amphitheatre, though much defaced by the loſs of its marble, offers many ornaments peculiar to itſelf; it is conſiderably ſmaller than

the Flavian amphitheatre at Rome, but worthy of the firſt among the ſecond cities of the empire: the monuments ſtill to be ſeen on this ſpot are certainly of a date long poſterior to Capuan independence, and even to that of Roman liberty. The lower order of the amphitheatre is Tuſcan, the ſecond Dorick; what the upper ones were cannot be aſcertained: on the key-ſtone of each arcade was the buſt of a deity of a coloſſal ſize and coarſe execution, much too maſſive for the reſt of the work—Indeed it is the fault of this building to be clumſy in its architecture; but perhaps we judge unfairly upon the view only of its preſent ſtate; when it was perfect in its height and forms, theſe defects may have vaniſhed, or, at leaſt, have been converted into an appearance of ſtrength and majeſty characteriſtic of ſuch a public edifice: it had four entrances, and was built of brick, faced with ſtone, or marble; the little value ſet upon brick has preſerved it, while the other materials have been torn down to mend roads

and build cottages. Santa Maria di Capua, and San Pietro del Corpo, two ſmall villages, now occupy part of the ſpacious incloſure of the city, which was the centre from whence the Viæ Appia, Latina, Domitia, and others, branched off towards different provinces of Italy. Along the edges of theſe roads the ancients buried their dead in magnificent mauſolea, a few of which yet ſtanding point out the direction of the highways. The Conocchia, a vulgar name given to one of theſe monuments from a ſuppoſed reſemblance with a diſtaff, is the handſomeſt, and conſiſts of a cupola, ſurrounded with columns placed upon a ſquare tower.

Capua was a ſettlement of the Oſci known before the foundation of Rome; as the amazing fertility of the land and a lucrative commerce poured immenſe wealth upon its inhabitants, it became one of the moſt extenſive and magnificent cities in the world. With riches exceſſive luxury crept in, and the Capuans grew inſolent; but by their effeminacy they ſoon loſt the power

of

of repelling thoſe neighbouring nations which their inſolence had exaſperated: for this reaſon Capua was continually expoſed to the neceſſity of calling-in foreign aid, and endangering its ſafety by the uncommon temptations it offered to needy auxiliaries. The Roman ſoldiers ſent to defend Capua were on the point of making it their prey, and often the voice of the Roman people was loud for a removal from the barren unwholeſome banks of the Tiber to the garden of Italy, near thoſe of the Voltorno. Through well-founded jealouſy of the ambition of Rome, or as Livy and other partial writers term it, natural inconſtancy, the Capuans warmly eſpouſed the quarrel of Carthage: Hannibal made Capua his winter-quarters after the campaign of Cannæ; and there, if we are to believe hiſtorians, his rough and hitherto invincible ſoldiers were metamorphoſed by pleaſure and indolence into ſoft minions, never after fit to cope with the Romans in the field. I cannot preſume to deny what is ſo poſitively aſſerted by

by authors of eminence, but I think it extraordinary that with ſuch feeble means, and at the head of ſuch enervated troops, Hannibal ſhould ſo manage as to continue the war during thirteen years after that unfortunate winter. That theſe Epicureans ſhould during that time face the beſt legions of Rome in many bloody and well-diſputed conflicts; that after ill ſucceſs their general ſhould ſtill be able to bring them on to freſh engagements, and prevent them from ſinking under ſuch a ſeries of hardſhips and wants; that he ſhould defeat with theſe men ſeveral Roman armies, beſiege and take towns, and even dare to preſent himſelf at the head of ſo degenerate a crew before the gates of Rome, gives me great reaſon to doubt of the pernicious effects of this Capuan winter. There is much rhetorical miſrepreſentation and hyperbole in the accounts given us by Roman hiſtorians, and indeed I ſuſpect their whole hiſtory, from a dearth of records and chronicles, to be ſtrangely interwoven with fiction.

When through a failure of ſupplies from Carthage Hannibal was under a neceſſity of remaining in Brutium, and leaving the Capuans to defend themſelves, this city, which had been long inveſted, was ſurrendered at diſcretion to the conſuls Appius Claudius and Q. Fulvius Flaccus. The ſenators were put to death, the nobles impriſoned for life, and all the citizens ſold and diſperſed. Vibius, the chief of Hannibal's friends, avoided this ignominious fate, and eſcaped from the cruel vengeance of the Romans by a voluntary death. When the mob inſiſted upon the gates being thrown open to the enemy, Vibius aſſembled his ſteady aſſociates, and ſat down with them to a ſuperb banquet; after which, each of the gueſts ſwallowed a poiſonous draught, and expired in full poſſeſſion of their freedom. The buildings were ſpared by the victor, and Capua was left to be merely a harbour for the huſbandmen of the plain, a warehouſe for goods, and a granary for corn; but ſo advantageous a ſituation could not long be neglected;

neglected; colonies were ſent to inhabit it, and in proceſs of time it regained a degree of importance.

Genſeric the Vandal was more cruel than the Roman conquerors had been, for he maſſacred the inhabitants, and burnt the town to the ground. Narſes rebuilt it, but in 841 it was totally deſtroyed by an army of Saracens, and the inhabitants driven into the mountains. Some time after the retreat of theſe ſavage invaders, the Lombards ventured down again into the plain, but not deeming their force adequate to the defence of ſo large a circuit as the old city, they built themſelves a ſmaller one on the river, and called it Capua—They choſe the ſite of Caſilinum, famous in the ſecond Punic war for the reſiſtance made by its garriſon againſt Hannibal. Since the foundation of the new city old Capua has remained in ruins.

In 856 Landulph formed here an independent earldom diſmembered from the duchy of Benevento, and in the courſe of a few generations

Capua

Capua acquired the title of a principality. In the 11th century the Normans of Averſa expelled the Lombard race of princes, and Richard their chief became prince of Capua; the grandſon of Tancred of Hauteville drove out the deſcendants of Richard, and united this ſtate to the reſt of his poſſeſſions.

Capua is at preſent a neat little city fortified according to the rules of modern art, and may be conſidered as the key of the kingdom; though far removed from the frontier, it is the only fortification that really covers the approach to Naples: The Voltorno, a deep muddy river with high banks, may afford a good barrier againſt the deſultory attacks of light troops, and the forerunners of an army, and thereby give leiſure to the Neapolitans to prepare for reſiſtance in the field; but unleſs a ſtrong force be ready to defend the country, the river will be of little avail, as it cannot long ſtop the progreſs of a determined foe.

The

The ſtreets are more open and airy than is uſual in the towns of this kingdom, and the buildings better. Many of them are conſtructed with materials brought from the ancient city.

SECTION LXVIII.

THE plain that reaches from the bridge of Capua to the foot of the Falernian hills, is, if poſſible, richer than that which lies ſouth of the river; I never ſaw any land that can be compared to it for beauty and luxuriance of productions. The poſt-houſe of Sparaneſi ſtands in the centre of a moſt delightful ſcene; thick waving crops of corn cover all the flat, except where ſome ſpreading ſingle trees ſhade ſmall patches of paſture; the ſea appears over the corn, and on every other ſide a border of mountains at different degrees of diſtance encircles the picture.

Various

Various are the encomiums laviſhed in all ages on this happy tract of cultivation by every author that has had occaſion to mention it. The repeated crops which it produced in the courſe of each year, without being exhauſted; the fruit, with which its orchards were loaded, ſuperior in flavour to all others; the wine that flowed from the vineyards of the ſurrounding hills; and the exquiſite perfumes and ointments, capital appendages of ancient luxury, extracted from its innumerable beds of fragrant flowers; were ſubjects on which hiſtorians and poets expatiated with full delight: whole ſtreets in Capua were devoted to the trade of perfumery, and the Capuans had the excluſive privilege of making perfumed buſkins for the emperors.

On leaving this plain, I entered a mountainous country, over which Hannibal made his eſcape from Fabius, who hoped in vain to incloſe this ſubtle antagoniſt within his toils. Hannibal ſent in the night ſome light troops up the mountain, with a number of oxen having lighted

lighted faggots tied to their horns; the Romans thought the Carthaginian army was moving off that way, while Hannibal wheeled to the right, and paſſed into the vale of Teano without oppoſition.

The Falernian and Maſſican hills, ſo renowned for their wines, were a part of the ridge that ſtretches weſtward to the ſea, where the city of Sinueſſa ſtood, below the preſent town of Mondragone: the Appian way paſſed through it to Capua. It is remarkable that the roads in uſe among the moderns run generally far into the mountainous part of the country, and that the correſponding ancient ways were carried as much as poſſible in the low grounds, or near the ſea. This muſt be attributed to the deſolate ſtate of the coaſt for ſo many centuries, while it was expoſed to the ravages of various piratical nations, and while the timorous inhabitants ſought for ſafety among the faſtneſſes of their moſt inacceſſible mountains. The Falernian hills are compoſed of aſhes and other volcanical ſub-

ſtances; I ſaw ſeveral quarries of lava open. The ſides and ſummits of this chain are pleaſantly wooded, except near the extremity towards the ſea, where they are quite black and bare.

I ſlept at St. Agatha, an inn delightfully ſituated among the hills in the midſt of gardens: its environs reſemble the beautiful parts of England more than the reſt of Italy.

Next morning I walked acroſs a deep valley about a mile to Seſſa, a large city on a precipitate eminence; it chiefly conſiſts of one long, well-paved ſtreet, on a rapid declivity; the churches are built in a bad taſte, and their interior decorations correſpond with it. Roman altars and monumental ſtones are built up in the walls of ſeveral houſes. I copied an inſcription upon an altar vowed by the people of Minturnæ and Sueſſa to Matidia, the niece of Trajan. The appearance of this town is uncommonly grand from a diſtance, and the views it commands beautiful and extenſive.

* Seſſa was ſurnamed Aurunca, to diſtinguiſh it from Sueſſa Pometia, a town near the Pomptine marſhes. Lucilius the ſatyriſt was born here 147 years before the Chriſtian æra; ſome fragments of his works have reached us.

The women hereabouts divide their hair in the middle of their forehead, plait it, and carry it back over their ears to join the locks behind, and form a round mat or coil. They all wear yellow ſtockings.

From St. Agatha I deſcended into a ſpacious plain, open to the ſea, and cloathed with rich crops of corn; the few uncultivated ſpots were over-grown with ciſtus in full flower and fra-

* When Charles of Anjou diſtributed the forfeited eſtates of the adverſe party among his own friends, the family of Balzo or Baux obtained a grant of this fee. In the time of Joan the Firſt it was confiſcated, and ſold to the Marſani, who in their turn were attainted and deſpoiled by Ferdinand the Firſt. It then came into the poſſeſſion of the great captain Gonſalvo de Cordova, and was tranſmitted to his poſterity.

grance. The Garigliano * flowing ſilently out of the mountains, traverſes the vale in a deep winding bed, and empties itſelf into the ſea, a little below the ruins of Minturnæ, which made an awful appearance along its banks. They conſiſt of parts of an amphitheatre, and of a theatre ſtill more evidently marked, an octagon-hall, numberleſs vaults and arches, and an aqueduct, croſſing the high road, and almoſt reaching the hills from which it formerly brought water to the town; the modern burgh of Trajetta crowns the eminence above its extremity, in a beautiful ſtyle of landſcape, which is only to be ſeen in Italy, and in pictures painted from ideas acquired there. The marſhes below theſe ruins will never be forgotten, as long as the

* Anc. Liris.

——————Quietâ
Aquâ taciturnus amnis. HOR.

Nullo mutabilis imbri
Perſtringit tacitas gemmanti gurgite ripas. SILIUS.

events

events of Roman hiſtory are remembered; for in them Caius Marius concealed himſelf, when he fled before the prevailing faction of Sylla. Minturnæ was a deſolate place early in the ſeventh century, probably abandoned on account of the malignity of the vapours that riſe from the adjacent fens. This did not deter the Saracens from ſettling there, when they wanted a ſafe retreat, where they might depoſit the booty they had collected in their expeditions, and take breath after their toils and warfare: they fortified themſelves ſtrongly near this ruined city, and for ſeveral years maintained the poſt in defiance of all the armies that could be brought againſt them. It was not till the year 916 that the united force of all the neighbouring potentates prevailed over them, and delivered this country from the ravages of theſe mercileſs unbelievers.

The banks of the Garigliano have been the ſcene of many bloody encounters. In the wars of the ſixteenth century the French and Spa-

niards often diſputed its paſſage with mutual ſlaughter. There is at preſent no bridge acroſs, but only a ferry at a large tower; a little higher up are ſome remains of a bridge, but it is not known when it was built, or when deſtroyed.

From the plain of the Garigliano the road paſſes over the extremity of the mountains into another plain of leſs extent, which lies along the ſhore of the bay of Gaeta. That city appears full in front upon a peninſula; and above it ſtands the tomb of Munatius Plancus, which is a conſpicuous object from every ſide. The vale is narrow, being confined by high mountains of calcareous rock. I ſaw no traces of volcanical operations during the remainder of my journey through the Neapolitan territory. At the foot of the elevated iſthmus that connects the Gaetan promontory with the Apennines, I ſtopped at Mola, a ſmall town on the ſhore, near the ſite of the ancient Formiæ; this is the poſt where the baggage of all perſons travelling to or from Naples is examined by the cuſtom-

houſe

houſe officers. The quay before the inn is one of the moſt delightful ſituations imaginable, for it is ſheltered from every rude blaſt and boiſterous commotion of the elements by towering mountains that encircle the eaſtern ſide of the bay, and ſupply it with ſtreams of excellent water; the bay expands in front, with the city of Gaeta riſing out of its boſom; orange-groves hang over the water, and perfume all the environs. I croſſed the bay in an hour, and, upon landing at Gaeta, was conducted to the king's lieutenant, who gave me leave to walk about the fortifications. Having procured a guide, I ſurveyed the whole promontory, notwithſtanding a ſcorching ſun, and an oppreſſive ſcirocco that began to blow ſoon after I ſet out. The batteries are numerous, all directed towards the continent, for the rocks are ſo lofty and perpendicular towards the ſea, that no danger is apprehended on that ſide. At the extremity of the line of works, which extend a conſiderable way out of the gates, is the church

of La Trinita, built above the Montagna ſpaccata. This is a crack in the rocky cliff, made, as the Gaetans believe, by an earthquake at the time of our Saviour's death: a chapel is erected in the chaſm, under which the ſea beats into a huge cavern. I meaſured back my ſteps two miles to the cathedral, which is dedicated to St. Eraſmus: Frederic of Swabia adorned it with a ſteeple remarkably ſlender and lofty: its inſide is ſupported by a variety of antique columns; the baptiſmal font is a vaſe taken from the ruins of ſome ancient Formian villa: the workmanſhip is Greek, repreſenting Mercury bringing the infant Bacchus to a nymph, while the Corybantes are dancing round her: the figures are of the good times of ſculpture.

* The city of Gaeta is in general well built, though upon uneven ground; the fortifications are extenſive and complicated, but whether

* Gaeta is ſaid to be ſo called from the name of the nurſe of Æneas; a leſs fabulous etymology deduces it from Gaite, an ancient Samnite word ſignifying a curve or bay.

they render it a place of great ſtrength in the preſent improved ſtate of military architecture or not, is a point I muſt leave to profeſſors in the ſcience to decide. As the enemy has uſually penetrated into the kingdom, without paſſing near Gaeta, its importance as a barrier town is greatly diminiſhed, though it would be dangerous for an army, in caſe of a repulſe, to find ſuch a fortreſs in the way of its retreat, eſpecially as the paſſes of Mola are narrow. Gaeta has always been conſidered as a ſtrong place; it enjoyed independence for a long ſeries of years, under the protection either of the Greek emperor or the pope, being governed by dukes nearly in the ſame manner as Naples and Amalfi were. The forces of this little republick were very ſerviceable to pope Leo the Fourth in his wars with the Saracens. It often changed maſters in the ſubſequent ages, and ſeveral times was expoſed to the horrors of war. James king of Sicily was encamped before its walls, when he was ſo ſuddenly ſurrounded by the army of

Charles

Charles the Second, king of Naples, that he muſt inevitably have been deſtroyed or captured, had not Charles weakly or humanely condeſcended to conclude a treaty of general pacification. The houſe of Durazzo took refuge in Gaeta, and made it the head-quarters of their party, during the turbulent minority of Ladiſlaus, and here that active and fortunate prince was crowned, and from hence he ſallied forth to attack and drive his adverſaries out of the kingdom.

The body of the conſtable of Bourbon, who was ſlain as he was ſtorming the walls of Rome, was brought hither, and for above two hundred years ſhewn to all paſſengers in a glaſs caſe; but in the preſent reign his bones, which had been kept ſo long above ground upon account of his dying excommunicated, were ordered to be depoſited in the earth, for it was indecent that the remains of a prince of the houſe of Bourbon ſhould be thus expoſed as a ſpectacle of idle curioſity in a kingdom that is governed by a ſovereign of the ſame royal race.

SEC-

SECTION LXIX.

IN my return to Mola, I viſited many ruins of ancient villas, tombs, and gardens, diſperſed over the delightful iſthmus that joins Gaieta to the main land. The abbé Chaupy with great ingenuity has proved by inſcriptions and other forcible arguments, that the remains of terraces, baths, reſervoirs, and rooms, which ſurround the Villa Marſana at Caſtiglione, belonged to the Formianum of Cicero, near which, in a cloſe walk, this admirable orator was overtaken by the ſatellites of Anthony, and murdered as he was making his eſcape to the ſea.

* The death of this great man has covered the memory of Anthony with more odium than all

* Ca Popilius Lænas, who headed the aſſaſſins, is ſaid to have ſolicited the employment as a ſingular favour at the

all his other violences and proſcriptions have done; but I think poſterity has been too much ſeduced by the name of Cicero, and that better citizens were ſacrified to the jealouſy of the triumvirs, without exciting ſo much indignation. If

the hands of Mark Anthony; though, if we may credit Plutarch, Tully, by his eloquence, had ſaved him from condemnation in a trial for parricide.

Seneca indeed affirms that it was only a civil proceſs. In thoſe bloody and corrupt days, very ſlight and mean motives would, no doubt, prove ſufficient incitements to the perpetration of any horrid act of barbarity, and ambitious men would not heſitate long, if urged on by hopes of favour or advancement: But methinks I diſcover another cauſe for the conduct of Popilius, and that is, perſonal injury. It dated probably from the time of Cicero's ſecond marriage.

The Orator, overwhelmed with an immenſe load of debt, married his ward Popilia, a wealthy, heireſs and with her riches ſatisfied his clamorous creditors. To effect this, he repudiated Terentia, the mother of his beloved children and the ſteady partner of his evil fortunes. His firſt divorce was ſpeedily followed by that of Popilia upon the moſt frivolous

If we take an impartial ſurvey of Cicero's conduct and principles avowed in his own epiſtolary correſpondence, and trace him through all the labyrinths of his contradictory letters, we ſhall

frivolous pretences. She was driven from his couch becauſe ſhe was not ſufficiently affected with the death of his daughter Tullia. Now it appears to me highly probable that Popilius was her relation and perhaps injured in his fortune by Cicero's carrying away the wealth of the family; he may alſo have been irritated by the ignominy of the divorce and by the difficulties he found in compelling Tully to refund. Theſe reaſons were ſufficient to fill his breaſt with rancours againſt the enemy of his houſe, and obliterate the ſenſe of thoſe ſervices which had formerly been rendered him by Cicero's oratory and influence. It may be objected that the ſecond wife is named Publilia, not Popilia, in the letters to Atticus; but on the other hand Quintilian calls her Popilia, and the family of Popilia, not Publilia, occurs among the Conſular or family medals. I therefore have no difficulty in believing that the Publilius, ſo often mentioned by Cicero as a man with whom he was engaged in a litigation about money, was the indentical tribune C. Popilius Lænas who cut off his head; at leaſt there is a fair field for conjecture.

find

find more to blame than to admire, and diſcover that the deſire of advancing his fortunes, and making himſelf a name, were, from his outſet in life, the only objects he had in view: the good of his country, and the dictates of ſtern, ſteady virtue were not, as in Brutus and Cato, the conſtant ſprings of his actions: the misfortunes that befel him after his conſulſhip developed his character, and ſhewed him in his true colours: from that time to his death, puſillanimity, irreſolution, and unworthy repining tainted his judgement, and perplexed every ſtep he wiſhed to take. He flattered Pompey *, and cringed to Cæſar †, while in his private letters he

* ——tibi multò majori quàm Africanus fuit, me non multò minorem quam Lælium.——Ad famil. lib. 5. 7. Pompeio, pro quo emori quùm piè poſſum tum lubenter.—Ad Att. 7. 23. et aliib.

† Omnia mea ſtudia in iſtum unum *(Cæſarem)* conferam. Ego vero ardenti quidem ſtudio, ac fortaſſe efficiam, quod ſæpe viatoribus quùm properant, evenit; ut, ſi ſeriùs. quàm

he abuſed them both alternately *. He acknowledges in a letter to his friend, the time-ſerving Atticus, that, although he was at preſent determined to ſupport the cauſe of Rome and liberty, and to bear misfortune like a philoſopher, there was one thing which would gain him over to the triumvirs, and that was, their

quàm voluerint forte ſurrexerunt, properanto etiam citùs, quàm ſi de multa nocte vigilaſſent, perveniant quo velint. Sic ego.——Ad Quint. frat. lib. 2. 15.

Jam amplitudinem gloriamque tuam magno mihi ornamento fore, exiſtimo quòdme levas cura.——Ex fragm. ad C. Cæſarem.

* In perditis impiiſque conſiliis, quibus Cæſar uſus erat, nullo potuit eſſe felicitas.——Ex Marcel. Fragm.

Quanto in odio noſter amicus Magnus, cujus cognomen unà cum Craſſi Divitis cognomine conſeneſcit.——Ad Att. 2. 13.

Nos, ut oſtendit *(Pompeius)* admodum diligit, amplectitur, amat, apertè laudat, occultè, ſed ita ut perſpicuum ſit, invidet: Nihil come, nihil ſimplex, nihil ἐκ τοῖς πολλοῖς honeſtum, nihil illuſtre, nihil forte, nihil liberum.—Ad Att. 1. 13.

procuring

procuring for him the vacant augurſhip *; ſo pitiful was the bribe to which he would have ſacrificed his honour, his opinion, and the commonwealth; by his wavering, imprudent conduct, he contributed greatly towards its deſtruction †. After reproaching the conſpirators for leaving him out of the ſecret, and loading them with the moſt flattering compliments on their delivering Rome from Cæſar's tyranny, he calls Caſca an aſſaſſin, to pay his court to the boy Octavius, by whom he was compleatly duped ‡. His

* Cuinam auguratus deferatur; quo quidèm uno ego ab iſtis capi poſſum. Vide levitatem meam.—Ad Att. 2. 5.

† Adhuc ulta ſuas *(reipublicæ)* injurias eſt per vos interritu tyranni.——Ad famil. lib. 12. 1.

——periculum non extimeſco modò veſtri facti gloriam cum meâ laude communicet.——Ib. 12. 2.

Veſtri pulcherrimi facti me principem dicit fuiſſe. Utinam quidèm fuiſſem.

Vellem idibus Martiis me ad cœnam invitaſſes: reliquiarum nihil fuiſſet.

‡ Pueri licentiam potius eſſe irritam quàm repreſſam à Cicerone, tantum eum tribuere huic indulgentiæ ut ſe maledictis

His praiſes of this triumvir are in the higheſt ſtrain of panegyric*; Mark Anthony well knew that the virulent abuſe, which Cicero was continually pouring out againſt him, was not an effuſion of patriotic zeal or virtuous indignation, but merely the ebullitions of perſonal hatred. He therefore cauſed Cicero to be killed, as an angry man that has been ſtung ſtamps on a venomous animal that comes within reach of his foot. The cloak he threw over the body of Brutus, and the ſpeech he pronounced at the ſight of that hero when dead, differ widely from the treatment he gave the remains of Cicero, and ſhew that he made a diſtinction between a Roman, who oppoſed him from political motives, and one whoſe enmity aroſe from private pique.

maledictis non abſtineat, iis quidem quæ in ipſum dupliciter recidunt: quod et plures occidit uno, ſeque priùs fateatur ſicarium quam objiciat Caſcæ quod objicit.—Brutus ad Atticum.

* Neminem tibi profecto hominem ex omnibus aut antepoſuiſſem unquam aut etiam comparaſſem.——Ad Cæſar. Jun. fragm.

The road from Caſtiglione, a large Benedictine convent, is lined with fragments of ancient edifices. One is particularly conſpicuous near the bridge of Itri. The firſt ſtory is ſquare, upon which riſes a round tower, crowned by a ſquare turret full of holes like a dovecote. Chaupy contends, with much apparent reaſon, that it was erected on the ſpot where Cicero was killed; it anſwers in point of ſituation to the deſcriptions given us by Plutarch and others of the place where the aſſaſſins, who had taken a nearer road to the ſhore, hid themſelves, and intercepted the litter, which for greater ſecurity had been brought through dark and ſecret walks *. An inſcription fixed in the wall of a ruin at a ſmall diſtanee is ſuppoſed by the ſame

* Q GISVITIVS Q L PHILOMVSVS
MAJOR
Q GISVITIVS Q L PHILOMVS M
M VITRVVIVS M L DEMETRIVS
ET VITRVVIA
CHRESTE M VITRVVIVS M L
.... TEMA.

curious

curious obſerver to have been placed by the freedmen of Marcus and Quintus Cicero, in order to perpetuate their attachment to their murdered lords. Although the name of Tullius does not occur in the inſcription, the circumſtance of the freedmen bearing the prænomina of their reſpective maſters affords a ſtrong preſumption in favour of the hypotheſis. We know that Marcus Cicero had a freedman of the name of Demetrius *.

I now entered a mountainous region, where I found the ſcarcity of water truly alarming; the early heats had dried up the wells and ditches, and barely left enough for the abſolute wants of the inhabitants. They were obliged to drive their cattle many miles to water, and in one place I ſaw a drove of horſes waiting to be led down into an ancient vault, in the boſom of the hill. I could not procure a drop of water that was drinkable.

* Litteræ quas dederas Demetrio liberto.——Ad Att, 14. 19.

Demetrium redde noſtrum.——Ad Fam. 16. 19.

Having paſſed the ſteep mountains of Itri, I deſcended into the plain of Fondi, which would be a terreſtrial paradiſe, were it bleſſed with a purer air; but near the ſhore a large lake with woody banks exhales pernicious vapours, and ſome torrents that interſect and overflow the plain, contribute to render the air too moiſt for ſo hot a climate. A ſemicircle of mountains embraces this vale, and prevents in ſome degree its having a ſufficient ventilation to clear its atmoſphere.

Fondi is ſituated in a gay open expoſure, at the foot of the mountain, and is a perfect ſquare, divided by two ſtreets at right angles. Thoſe that run from eaſt to weſt, being no conſtant thoroughfare, have ſtill their antique pavement entire, reſembling that part of the Appian way which exiſts in a perfect ſtate near Terracina. In the Neapolitan territory it was all taken up, or covered, when the road from the frontier to Naples was repaired previous to the paſſage of the preſent queen. Before that time it was one

of the worſt in the world, and no traveller could flatter himſelf with a poſſibility of reaching Naples, without being overturned once at leaſt; the ſtones of the Appian way being moved from their places, and half buried at random in a deep viſcous clay, made almoſt every ſtep a ſlough. At preſent no capital in Europe has a fairer approach to it than Naples.

The walls of Fondi deſerve the attention of the curious, who wiſh to be made acquainted with the ſtyle of building uſed by the Tuſcans and other nations that preceded the Romans in the poſſeſſion of this country *. They are built near the bottom with large pentagonal or other polygonal flags of lava, and form a ſurface exactly ſimilar to the appearance the Via Appia †

* At Cori near Velletri are very magnificent remains of ſimilar walls: this place merits the attention of travellers; Piraneſi publiſhed ſome engravings of theſe ruins.

† I have often thought it probable that the paving ſtones of the Romans were portions ſawed off columns of baſaltes, ſuch as compoſe the banks of the lake of Bolſena, the Giants Cauſeway in Ireland, and the cliffs of Staffa in the weſtern iſles of Scotland.

would make were it raiſed up in a perpendicular poſition. Above this ſolid foundation, which muſt be of very high antiquity, the wall is conſtructed with ſmaller ſtones, irregularly placed, as their various ſizes and ſhapes directed, after the manner called by Vitruvius *incertum*; this part belongs to a later period: above all, the Romans added regular courſes of equal ſtones. The eaſtern gate is entirely of their workmanſhip; over it is an inſcription denoting that Numiſtorius and Runtius had the ſuperintendency of the gates and ſtreets, and had given the ſenate a proper account of their conduct.

Fondi, an old city of the Oſci, maintained a reſpectable rank among the municipia under the Roman government, and was afterwards a colony. In 1222 it was burnt by the Imperialiſts for ſiding with the pope, in obedience to the commands of its earl; this lord was of the houſe of Aquila, the heireſs of which afterwards married Jordan Gaetano, nephew to pope Boniface the Eighth.

A council

A council was held here in 1382 by the enemies of Urban the Sixth, and the cardinal of Geneva was inveſted with the tiara by the name of Clement the Seventh. In 1534 two thouſand Turks landed ſecretly out of Barbaroſſa's fleet, and under the conduct of ſome renegadoes from this country ſurpriſed Fondi in the dead of night. Their project was to ſeize Donna Julia, wife of Veſpaſian Colonna, the moſt beautiful woman in Italy, and to convey her to the Grand Signor's ſeraglio, but ſhe had juſt time to get on horſeback in her ſhift, and fly to the mountains before the corſairs reached her apartments. The town was ſacked, numbers of its inhabitants carried into ſlavery, and the Barbarians returned unmoleſted to their ſhips, having been abſent only four hours from the fleet.

Before I reached the end of the plain and the mountains of Terracina, I paſſed through la Portella, a gate and cuſtom-houſe, which is the boundary of the kingdom of Naples. From hence I proceeded to Rome.

JOURNEY

TO

AVEZZANO.

SECTION LXX.

ON the ſixth of March, 1779, I made a ſhort tour into the kingdom of Naples with Sir Thomas Gaſcoigne.

We left Rome on horſeback at five in the morning, and came to ſleep at Carſoli, a ſmall ill-built town on the ſide of a ſteep hill, which ſhuts up a defile of the mountains. It is juſt within the limits of the Neapolitan ſtate, for in the plain below is the point of diviſion at an inn called Il Cavaliere, where ſome cuſtom-houſe officers are ſtationed. This town bears the name of the ancient city of Carſeoli, though its ruins lie

lie near a mile off in the plain. We here began to find that we had been deceived by the temperature of the air at Rome, for the wind was intolerably cold, and had the cutting feel of a blaſt ſweeping over the ſnow. Carſoli is a portion of the immenſe demeſne poſſeſſed by the conſtable Colonna; he has thirty-ſeven manors in this neighbourhood.

Next morning we entered the narrow defile of Colli, and croſſed a mountain which is the natural barrier of the Neapolitan dominions on this ſide: it muſt prove a difficult paſs for an army to force, if any defence be intended; the valley is ſhaded by oak-woods, above which a foreſt of beech covers the higher parts of the mountains. The aſcent, which is ſix miles from Carſoli to the top, is very ſtony, laborious, and even dangerous; the rocks are a calcareous breccia, exceedingly ſlippery. The paſſage was rendered uncommonly diſagreeable to us by our meeting with endleſs droves of cattle. At Rocca di Cerro, a poor hamlet on the ſummit of the paſs,

paſs, we had a view into Abruzzo, a wide mountainous tract of country; we looked over woody hills full of villages, a ſpacious ſtretch of plains, and part of a great lake, all bounded by a gigantic circle of mountains. Velino rears its ſnowy peak high above the general line, and is diſtinguiſhed among them all even from Rome, which is ſeventy miles diſtant.

The deſcent from Rocca di Cerro is very rapid, but it was viſible that the plains we were going to were higher in the atmoſphere than that of Carſoli, and prodigiouſly elevated above the Campagna of Rome.

Tagliacozzo, a large market town, was the firſt place we came to on the declivity, its ruined caſtle ſtands on a high perpendicular rock at the head of a ſteep hill; on the ſlope are the buildings of the upper town; the road or ſtreet that runs down the middle of them is as precipitous as any I ever paſſed, not excepting the wildeſt hamlet in Savoy. The lower town is leſs cramped for room, and ſeems to have a better

better collection of inhabitants. At the foot of the mountain amidſt horrible rocks and precipices the river Salto breaks out in a large volume, and immediately turns ſeveral mills: its waters are exceſſively cold, and from ſome ſulphureous or petrifying quality very pernicious to all herbs and garden vegetables that are ſprinkled with them. It traverſes a pleaſant vale, and afterwards runs northwards into the Roman ſtate. We rode acroſs the flat, and then aſcended a gentle eminence to Scurcola, a large village and old caſtle that overlooks the Palentine plains, where a battle was fought in the month of Auguſt, 1268, between Charles of Anjou and Conradine of Swabia, who had entered the kingdom by Tagliacozzo in order to poſſeſs himſelf of the crown of his anceſtors. A low chain of hills divides this plain from the lake of Celano, and ends in a curve oppoſite to Scurcola, ſo as to form a valley that cannot be ſeen into from the low grounds. Here the regular onſet began between the two armies, in which

which that of Conradine, from the ſuperiority of numbers, gained ſuch an advantage over the French, that the victory ſeemed decided in his favour; the rout was univerſal, and the Germans thought of nothing more but reaping the fruits of their toil by the plunder of their enemies; for this purpoſe they broke their ranks, and diſperſed themſelves in purſuit of the vanquiſhed. At this critical moment Charles, who by the advice of Alard de S. Valery, an old experienced commander, had concealed one third of his forces, and that the flower of his army, in the little valley above-mentioned, ruſhed down at their head upon this diſorderly multitude; the Germans being ſcattered beyond all poſſibility of rallying or making reſiſtance, were put to the ſword in great numbers by theſe freſh aſſailants, and a complete victory was gained by the Angevines; Conradine and the duke of Auſtria were at that fatal time bathing their duſty brows in the Salto, and had ſcarcely leiſure to eſcape from

from the fury of the victor. Their flight, alas! was of little avail, for being ſeized on the Roman coaſt while they were endeavouring to put to ſea in diſguiſe, they were delivered up to Charles, and the next year juridically murdered at Naples: by the death of theſe unfortunate youths the two illuſtrious houſes of Swabia and Auſtria became extinct, and an opening was made for the family of Hapſburg to advance towards the mighty honours and power which it has ſince attained. Charles built a Ciſtercian convent on the field of battle in honour of Santa Maria della Victoria, and endowed it richly; but on account of earthquakes and the diſaſters which befel it from its vicinity to the frontiers, the monks left the place, and the abbatial reſidence being transferred to Scurcola, the monaſtery fell to ruin. The remains of it, which have nothing remarkable in them, are to be ſeen near the ancient Via Valeria. Upon the monks abandoning this ſettlement, the popes appropriated to themſelves the

the right of conferring the benefice *in commendam*, and thus diſpoſed of it for many years; but on the death of the late incumbent, the Abate Quercia detected the uſurpation, vindicated the king's rights to the preſentation, and obtained the living for himſelf; the court of Rome raiſed a ſhort and feeble clamour, but no regard was paid to its reclamation. This poſſeſſor has, by reviving dormant claims, and exacting neglected dues, raiſed the value of the abbey from ſeven hundred to eight thouſand ducats a year.

The view from hence towards Magliano, a walled town on a round knoll, and the ſpiry ſummit of mount Velino behind it, has ſomething uncommonly ſublime. We turned the point of the hills where the Angevine army was arrayed, and rode through another plain which widens gradually to the banks of the lake. On our left hand, upon an eminence, appeared the town of Albi, noted in Roman hiſtory for being the ſtate priſon, where captive

princes were ſhut up, after being barbarouſly dragged through the ſtreets of Rome at the chariot-wheels of a triumphant conſul. Perſes king of Macedon terminated his wretched career in this confinement, with his ſon, the laſt hope of an illuſtrious line of kings. Syphax the Numidian, and Bituinus king of the Averni, were alſo condemned to this gaol, by the particular clemency of the ſenate, which ſometimes indulged its ſavage diſpoſition by putting its captives to death.

Alba being ſituated in the centre of Italy, amidſt difficult mountainous paſſes, and far from all means of eſcape, was eſteemed a moſt proper place for the purpoſe of guarding priſoners of importance: artificial ſtrength was added to its natural ſecurity by fortifications, which remain to this day in a ſtate that proves their ancient ſolidity. For the entertainment of the garriſon, which was required in a place of ſuch conſequence, an amphitheatre was erected, of which the ruins are ſtill viſible, as well as

the

the foundations of a temple, and other buildings of Roman times.

Lucius Vitellius, brother to the emperor of that name, had a villa near this place, famous for the variety and excellence of its fruit-trees, which he had brought from Syria. His gardens were the nurſeries where ſeveral of the moſt delicious ſtone-fruits, that are now ſo common in Europe, were firſt cultivated and multiplied; it muſt have been neceſſary at Alba to ſhelter trees tranſplanted from Aſia, and to treat them with great tenderneſs and care, in order to rear them to perfection, for the climate of this high region is extremely rigorous in winter; the cold ſeaſon laſts long, and is accompanied with violent ſtorms of wind, and falls of ſnow. The lake has been often frozen entirely over, and this year the greateſt part of its ſurface was covered with ice. We experienced the ſeverity of the climate, for as outrageous a blaſt of ſnow as any I ever faced, even in my own country, overtook us before we could reach the town of Avezzano.

We

We were there received in the houſe of Don Ladiſlao Mattei, a gentleman to whoſe politeneſs, excellent natural parts, and fund of acquired knowledge, I cannot pay too high a tribute of praiſe: the elegant manner in which we were treated, and the pleaſure we found in his agreeable converſation, made us bear with chearfulneſs the inconvenience of being locked up by the exceſſive badneſs of the weather, and the difficulties that attended our examining any of thoſe objects of curioſity which had been the motives of our journey. The mother of D. Ladiſlao and twenty other children was then in her eighty-ſeventh year, and as hale, cheerful, upright, and well-looking, as moſt women of forty; ſhe had as yet felt none of the diſadvantages of old age, being in full poſſeſſion of her health, and every one of her ſenſes.

Avezzano was founded in 860, and contains 2700 inhabitants, and two religious communities within its walls, which are in a ruinous

condition. The houſes are in general mean, but there are ſome large buildings and opulent families of the claſs of gentlemen not poſſeſſed of fees held in capite. The town is built on an almoſt imperceptible declivity one mile from the lake of Celano, to which an avenue of poplars leads from the baronial caſtle. This edifice ſtands at a little diſtance from the town, is ſquare, and flanked with towers; it was erected by Virginio Orſini, to which family this and many other great lordſhips belonged, before they were wreſted from them in times of civil war, and transferred to the Colonnas.

SEC-

SECTION LXXI.

AS ſoon as the weather would permit, we viſited the lake of Celano, ſo called by the moderns from a town near its north ſhore, the head of the earldom that comprehended at one time the greateſt part of the country of the Marſi. This was the ancient name of the people that inhabited the environs of the lake, allowed by the Romans to be the moſt intrepid ſoldiers of their legions, when in friendſhip, and the moſt formidable of their enemies, when at variance. It was a common ſaying, that Rome could neither triumph over the Marſi, nor without them. In the 662d year of Rome, they put themſelves at the head of the ſocial war, one of the moſt obſtinate and dangerous oppoſitions ever made to the progreſs of the

Roman power: it was terminated by a grant of thoſe privileges for which they contended. Their name ſtill ſubſiſts in that of the dioceſe, for the prelate is ſtyled biſhop of the Marſi.

In ancient times, the lake was called Fucinus, and was under the protection of a god of the ſame denomination, whoſe temple ſtood on its banks. According to the teſtimony of ancient authors, it was ſubject to extraordinary riſings and decreaſings. The actual circumference is forty-ſeven miles; the breadth in the largeſt part, ten, in the narroweſt, four; its depth, twelve feet upon an average. But all theſe have varied prodigiouſly. Two miles up the plain, behind Avezzano, the fragments of boats, ſhells, and other marks of its ancient extent have been caſually diſcovered; and, on the contrary, there are people who remember when it did not flow nearer than within two miles of Avezzano. An immenſe tract of excellent land is loſt at every increaſe of its level, and if any means could be deviſed for draining it,

it, or at leaſt reducing its ſize, the value of the ground recovered for cultivation would be more than an equivalent for any expence incurred in the works.

All round this noble piece of water riſes a circle of grand mountains, ſome of them the higheſt in Italy, if we except the Alps. The Rocca di Cambio is accounted the moſt elevated among them: in ſummer this country muſt be a delightful place of abode, for the environs of the lake are well incloſed, and the ſides of the hills covered with fine woods; its waters abound with fiſh of various kinds, and thither repair at ſtated ſeaſons innumerable flights of wild-fowl. The neceſſaries of life are good, plentiful, and cheap: ſcarcely a town but is celebrated for the excellence of ſome particular ſpecies of food.

We rode along the edge of the lake, which was exceſſively agitated by the high wind, and reſembled a dark ſtormy ſea; at the diſtance of a mile and a half from the town we came to the mouth of the emiſſary or opening made by

the order of Claudius Cæſar for the diſcharge of the waters into the Liris *, which runs in a deep

* Dio ſays, the emperor intended to convey the waters into the Tiber; which could only be by means of the Salto, the Velino, and the Nera, through all which they muſt have paſſed before they fell into the Tiber, unleſs he meant to carry them upon arches over the Liris, and through a double chain of hills to the ſource of the Teverone. The Salto is too far off, and, I imagine, upon much too high a level.

Cluverius aſſerts, that nobody now knows where the emiſſary was; and that the works ſhewn for it are no more than the veſtiges of a ſmall canal, where the river Pitonius entered the bowels of the mountains, out of which it did not emerge till it reached the valley of Subiaco, where the aqueducts began that conveyed it to Rome, by the name of the Aqua Martia. Pliny tells a wonderful ſtory of this river's riſing in the diſtant mountains of the Peligni, and traverſing the Fucine lake, without mixing its waters with it. Thoſe of the lake are themſelves limpid and wholeſome, and if they were to be conveyed to Rome in pipes, would certainly be as pure and good as any ſpring-water whatever. As the long term of eleven years, with an enormous multitude of hands, was em-

ployed

deep valley on the other ſide of the hills. The opening is now choaked up, and lies at the foot of the hill, much below the preſent level of the water: in a line from it up the ſlope are ſix perpendicular wells, and two oblique grooves to the canal, which was driven through the hill into the oppoſite valley, and there had a vent at Capiſtrelli, two miles from the lake. The water is ſaid to flow as far as the centre of the hill, and to be there twenty feet deep, but being obſtructed by earth fallen in, or want of level, proceeds no further. Oblique collateral

ployed in this excavation, it may perhaps have been carried as far as the beginning of the aqueducts in the vale of the Teverone, where the ruins are ſtill to be ſeen, though at leaſt twelve miles in a ſtraight line from the lake. Frontinus mentions his having diſcovered the real ſource of the Aqua Martia, between Carſeoli and Subiaco, thirty-ſix miles from Rome; near Rio Freddo in the Roman ſtate are ſeveral wells, or air-holes, that were contrived for the uſe of the ſubterraneous conduit, by which its waters were there conveyed through a mountain.

galleries were alſo contrived for the purpoſe of clearing the channel of rubbiſh, as the workmen advanced. As the ſwelling of the lake was attended with incredible damage, the Marſi had often petitioned the ſenate to drain it: Julius Cæſar would have attempted it, had he lived longer. His ſucceſſors were averſe to the project, till Claudius, who delighted in expenſive, difficult enterprizes, undertook it. During the ſpace of eleven years he employed thirty thouſand men in digging a paſſage through the mountain, and when every thing was ready for letting off the water, exhibited a ſuperb naval ſpectacle on the lake.

A great number of condemned criminals were obliged to act the parts of Rhodians and Sicilians in ſeparate fleets, to engage in earneſt, and to deſtroy one another for the entertainment of the court, and the multitude of ſpectators that covered the hills: a line of well-armed veſſels and rafts loaded with ſoldiers ſurrounded the ſcene of action, in order to prevent any of the

the wretches from eſcaping; but it was with great difficulty and many threats that they could be brought to an engagement. When this ſavage diverſion was ended, the operations for opening the emiſſary commenced, and the emperor was very near being ſwept away and drowned by the ſudden ruſhing of the waters towards this vent. However, either through the ignorance or negligence of the engineers, the work did not anſwer as was expected, and Claudius did not live long enough to have the faults amended: Nero abandoned the ſcheme through envy. Hadrian is ſaid to have let off the waters of the Fucinus, but none now eſcape except through hidden channels formed by nature, which are probably ſubject to he obſtructed, and thus occaſion a ſuperabundance of water in the lake, till ſome unknown cauſe removes the obſtructions, and again gives free paſſage. As three conſiderable ſtreams fall into the lake, the leaſt obſtacle to a diſcharge muſt raiſe the level.

The name of Abruzzo, which is now given to the two moſt northerly provinces of the kingdom, was applied by the Goths, Lombards, and Normans, ſolely to a ſmall domain called the county of Apruzzo, or Aprutinus: under the Swabian government it was extended over the whole country that now goes by that appellation. The ſize of the river Peſcara, the ancient Aternus, induced the kings to make it a boundary, and to divide the province into two parts according as they lay with reſpect to the river: the government of each was entruſted to a juſticiary, and the captains of the cities; but their tribunals were not rendered permanent till the acceſſion of the houſe of Arragon, when they were fixed at Aquila and Chieti. In the laſt century it was found expedient to ſubdivide the province of Aquila into two juriſdictions, as the vicinity to the Papal frontier had rendered it a den of thieves and banditti, which required the number of magiſtrates to be increaſed, that the inſolence of the profligate might be more eaſily

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and expeditiouſly ſuppreſſed. A third tribunal was accordingly eſtabliſhed at Teramo, the chief of which, as well as thoſe of the other provincial tribunals throughout the realm, is ſtyled preſident, and is uſually an officer of the rank of brigadier, or major general.

As theſe provinces are the moſt northern, they are alſo the coldeſt in the kingdom, being exceedingly mountainous. The chain of the Apennines, without any interruption but that of ſome narrow vallies formed by the waters of the numerous rivers that ruſh down from the heights, continues in a ſlight declivity to the edge of the Adriatic ſea. But the rigour of the climate is not ſo great as to prevent the country from producing in abundance every thing requiſite for the ſupport of life. Vegetables, fruits, animals, and numberleſs other articles of ſuſtenance, not only furniſh ample proviſion for the uſe of the natives, but alſo allow of exportation. There is ſo large a quantity of wheat reaped, that many thouſands of quarters are annually

nually ſhipped off. Much Turkey wheat is ſent out, and the province of Teramo ſells a great deal of rice little inferior in goodneſs to that of Lombardy. Oil is a plentiful commodity, and wines are made for exportation on many parts of the coaſt; but wool has always been, and ſtill is, their ſtaple commodity: the flocks, after paſſing the whole ſummer in the fine paſtures of the mountains, are driven for the winter into the warm plains of Puglia, and a few ſpots near their own coaſt, where the ſnow does not lie; there are no manufactures of woollens in the province, except two ſmall ones of coarſe cloth, and the greateſt part of the wool is ſent out unwrought. No ſilk is made here, though mulberry-trees would grow well in the low grounds.

Formerly the territory of Aquila furniſhed Italy almoſt excluſively with ſaffron, but ſince the culture of that plant has been ſo much followed in Lombardy, it has fallen to nothing in Abruzzo. In the maritime tracts of country

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the cultivation of liquorice has been increaſed of late years, but foreigners export the roots in their natural ſtate: in the province of Teramo, there is a manufacture of pottery-ware, for which there is a great demand in Germany, by the way of Trieſte, as it is remarkably hard and fine, but even this is going to decay, by being abandoned entirely to the ignorance of common workmen. It is not to be expected that any improvements will be made in arts and manufactures, where the encouragement and attention of ſuperiors is wanting, and no pains taken to render the commodity more marketable, or to open better channels of ſale for it. The only advantages theſe provinces enjoy are the gift of benevolent nature, but ſhe has ſtill greater preſents in ſtore for them, and waits only for the helping hand of government to produce them. This whole coaſt, one hundred miles in length, is utterly deſtitute of ſea-ports, and the only ſpots where the produce can be embarked are dangerous,

dangerous, inconvenient roads, at the mouths of rivers, and along a lee-ſhore: the difficulty of procuring ſhipping, and of loading the goods, frequently cauſes great quantities of them to rot on hand, which damps induſtry, and prevents all improvements in agriculture. The huſbandman is a poor, diſpirited wretch, and wretchedneſs produces emigration: the uneven ſurface of the country occaſions it to be inhabited by retail, if I may uſe the expreſſion, rather than in large maſſes, for there is not a city that contains ten thouſand people, and the moſt of them would find it difficult to muſter three thouſand. Villages, caſtles, and feudatory eſtates are to be met with in abundance, but the numbers of their inhabitants are to be reckoned by hundreds, not thouſands; in a word, the political and ſocial ſyſtem of the province ſhews no ſigns of the vigour which nature ſo remarkably diſplays here in all her operations.

The antiquary and the naturaliſt may travel here with exquiſite pleaſure and profit; the

former will find treaſures of inſcriptions, and inedited monuments appertaining to the warlike nations, that once covered the face of the country: the natural philoſopher will have a noble field for obſervation in the ſtupendous mountains that riſe on all ſides. Monte-corno and Majella are among the moſt intereſting; the firſt is like an aged monument of nature, bald, and horribly broken on every aſpect; from various appearances, it is evident that its bowels contain many valuable veins of metallic ore, but the great difficulty of acceſs renders the ſearch of them almoſt impracticable. Majella has other merits, and of a gayer kind:—Nature has cloathed its declivities and elevated fields with an infinite variety of her moſt precious plants; vulnerary herbs grow there in as great perfection as on the Alps of Swizzerland, and are applied by the natives to wounds with equal ſucceſs.

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The character of the inhabitants varies a little among themſelves, according to ſituation and climate, but eſſentially from the diſpoſition of the natives of the more ſouthern provinces. This proceeds from a difference of origin; for the Lombards, who were barbarians, but not cruel; poor, but hoſpitable; endowed with plain honeſt ſenſe, though poſſeſſed of little acuteneſs or ſubtlety; remained peaceable proprietors of theſe mountainous regions, till the Normans, who were accuſtomed to a ſimilar climate, came and diſpoſſeſſed them. The Greeks, who retained almoſt every other part of the kingdom under their dominion, never had any ſway here. For this reaſon the Abruzzeſi ſtill bear a great reſemblance to their northern progenitors or maſters: to this day one may trace in them the ſame goodneſs of heart, but great indolence and repugnance to lively exertions, a fault that proceeds rather from a want of active virtue, than a diſpoſition to wickedneſs.

wickedneſs. Hence it comes that in theſe provinces, where the proximity of the frontier almoſt inſures impunity, fewer atrocious and inhuman deeds are heard of than in other parts of the realm. Remnants of ancient northern cuſtoms exiſted here ſo late as the beginning of this century, and, among the mountaineers, very evident traces of the Frank and Teutonic languages may be diſcovered.

The ſnow and exceſſive coldneſs of the wind defeated all our projects of penetrating farther into Abruzzo, and therefore, with great reluctance, we ſet out for the ſofter climate of Rome; the utmoſt we were able to compaſs was to take a different route from that we had followed in coming to Avezzano.

The lake was over-hung with black and fleeting miſts, which ſometimes left ſpace enough open for us to diſcern the towering ſummits of the mountains on the ſouth ſide of the water. Paſſing by the mouth of the Emiſſary, we came

to Luco, a ſmall place, which probably took its name from ſome conſecrated grove. A church has been built upon the ruins of a temple. Not far from it a fine ſtream falls into the lake near Traſacco, a hamlet full of mutilated inſcriptions, and other fragments of antiquity. We here took leave of the lake, and indeed of all proſpect whatever, being ſoon enveloped in impenetrable fogs. In this ſtate of darkneſs, we travelled over the mountain, and rode paſt the little city of Sora, almoſt without diſcerning an object in it. Sora belongs to the houſe of Buoncompagno, ſovereign princes of Piombino, deſcended from the nephew of Gregory the Thirteenth. About three miles below this town, the torrent Fibreno divides itſelf into two branches, which meeting again ſoon after, form a ſmall oblong iſland. On the banks of the river, oppoſite this ſpot, ſtood the manſion where Cicero was born. His father, in conformity with the luxury of the age, built a handſome villa

in lieu of the modeſt abode with which his anceſtors had been contented in days of Samnite ſimplicity; but this Arpinate, this favourite reſidence of the prince of orators, owed its merits to nature, not to the embelliſhments of faſhionable art: here were no rich moſaic pavements, or gilded vaults; no forced water-works, terraces, or ponds; no alleys of tortured trees, nor cluſters of ſtatues to attract the eye, and taint the mind with falſe ideas of beauty. All theſe meretricious ornaments became, as Cicero obſerves, contemptible to the eyes that had once ſeen this place, where the hand of Nature had happily arranged the woods and waterfalls; if art was called in, it was only in the character of an humble handmaid, to obey, not to dictate. The rapid ſtreams of the Fibrenus rolled down the vale in numberleſs wild caſcades, and diffuſed around a freſhneſs that mitigated the power of the autumnal heats, and preſerved a ſalutary circulation of air: the iſland was a perfect rural retreat fit for ſtudy and meditation, remote from

every noiſe but the murmurs of the water, and the melody of the birds; protected from the burning rays of the ſun and the eye of intruders by thick ſhades of venerable groves. In one of Cicero's dialogues, Atticus is made to exclaim, "what can be more delightful than this "iſland, which, like the prow of a ſhip, di-"vides the Fibrenus into two branches! theſe "flow ſwiftly down its ſides, and ſoon uniting "again, leave juſt ſpace enough for a wreſtling-"ground; they then haſten to mingle with the "Liris, and render it ſtill cooler by the mixture "of their icy waters."

We meaſured every foot of this truly claſſical ſpot, which even in its preſent neglected ſtate retains ſome traces of its antient beauty, though the chilneſs of its waters, which recommended the Fibreno ſo ſtrongly to Cicero, was a quality we were little charmed with in the midſt of ſleet and ſnow. A ſociety of monks, who are generally good judges of ſituation, have fixed their abode upon the ruins of the villa; but I

could diſcover no inſcription relative to its old maſter, though numberleſs fragments of ancient buildings bave been employed in the conſtruction of the church. A mile down the river we came to Iſola, a large burgh placed in an iſland of the Liris below its junction with the Fibreno; the beauty of this ſituation ſurpaſſes all power of deſcription, for at the point of interſection the moſs-grown towers of a romantic caſtle riſe on the brow of a perpendicular rock through a grove of trees, and on each ſide the river falls in a moſt ſublime manner: but the forms of theſe caſcades differ in their character; one is abrupt, and the torrent darts with infinite impetuoſity in a grand maſs roaring and foaming as it pours along; while the other is compoſed of a long, inclined plain, upon which the waters glide ſwiftly but ſmoothly down. The weather was ſo cold that it was impoſſible to give more than a curſory glance to theſe objects: as ſoon as our horſes were refreſhed, we croſſed the hills oppoſite to Arpino, now a poor place, but

once a colony that gave its name to the district, and boasted of having produced two of the most conspicuous characters of Rome, Marius ~~and~~ and Cicero. We soon after re-entered the ecclesiastical dominions, and in two days reached Rome.

INDEX

INDEX

OF

Remarkable PLACES, PERSONS, and THINGS.

VOL. IV.

A

	Page
AGATHOCLES, Tyrant,	8. 47
Aguglia of Marcellus	70
Alaric King of Viſigoths	289
Albi	366
Alicata	39
Alphonſus II. of Naples	179. 253
Amato, river	256
Amphitheatres	327
Anapus, river	109
Angitola, river	352
Anthony, Mark, Triumvir	347
Andrew of Hungary	325
Aqueducts	100
Arethuſa, fountain	89
Arpinate of Cicero	387
Averſa	323
Avezzano	368
Auguſta	114
Auletta	319

B

Baſento, river	289
Baths	261
Biſignano	294

Biveri,

Biveri, lake Page 65
Bivona 249

C

Calatagerone 50
Capua 327. 333
Carlentini 68
Carfoli 360
Caſtiglione Convent 354
Catania 122
Celano, lake 371
Charles II. of Naples 346
Charybdis 175
Cicero, M. Tullius 348
Claudius, Emperor 374. 376
Colonna, Donna Julia 359
Conradine of Swabia 363
Coſenza 279
Crati, river 292

D

Ducetius King of Sicull 7

E

Ear of Dionyſius 104
Eruptions 141. 162
Etna, mountain 56. 140
Euphemia, St. 261

F

Fabius Maximus, Dictator 336
Faro of Meſſina 217
Fibreno, river Page 388
Fiſheries 229
Fiumeſalſo, river 41
Fondi 358
Formianum of Cicero 347
Francis of Paula 219. 281

G

Gaeta 342
Game 120. 154
Garigliana, river 340
George of Antioch, Admiral 205
Giaretta, river 122
Girgenti 1
Giudicello, river 137
Gorgias of Lentini 63

H

Hannibal 338
Henry, ſon to Frederic II. 260
Hiero I. of Syracuſe 127

I J

James King of Sicily 346
Inquiſition 182
Inſcriptions 314. 354. 358
Joachim, Abbot 277
Joan I. of Naples 325
Joan II. of Naples 287
Iſola 389

L

	Page
Ladiſlaus King of Naples	346
Lagonero	309
Lakes, of Biveri 65. Fondi 356. Celano	371
Landolph of Capua	333
La Pertoſa cavern	316
Lao, river	307
Lauria	308
Lentini	63
Letter of the V. M.	180
Lewis III. King of Naples	287
Lewis XI. King of France	281
Lucilius, Poet	339

M

Maniaces, General	192
Marius, Caius, Conſul	341
Meſſina	172
Minturnæ, ruins	340
Mola di Gaeta	342
Monarchia, tribunal	188
Monteleone	245
Murano	300
Muſæum of Biſcari	124
——— Benedictines	131

N

	Page
Naro, river	33
Nicaſtro	258

P

Padula	311
Palagonia	57
Palma	34
Paralia	241
Paula	280
Piſma, pond	111
Pizzo	252
Polla	312
Pompeius, Sextus	83
Productions	33. 51. 198

R

Ranulph of Averſa	323
Revolt of Meſſina	194
Roger, Earl of Sicily	56. 78. 134. 186. 218. 249
Rogliano	276

S

Sala	312
Salto river,	363
Savuto, river	273
Schiſo	162

Scilla Page 219
Scurcola 363
Sepulchres 9. 21. 179. 355
Seſſa 339
Silari, river 320
Sora 386
Stromboli, volcano 227. 236
Syracuſe 73

T

Tagliacozzo 362
Taormina 164
Temples 17. 18. 23. 24. 27. 46. 86. 110. 249
Terranova 45
Theatres Page 100. 164
Thero of Agrigentum 6
Timoleon of Corinth 217
Trade 197
Tropea 238

V.

Velino, mountain 362
Vibius of Capua 331
Victoria, convent 365
Villa Sciarra 136
Vitellius, Lucius 368
Voltorno, river 334

X.

Xenodicus of Agrigentum 8

FINIS.